

Balkan Arms Smuggling: Wider Than U.S. Acknowledged

By John Pomfret
and David B. Ottaway
Washington Post Service

Arms smuggling to Bosnia and Croatia was larger and more complex than the shipments from Iran and Turkey recently acknowledged by the Clinton administration, according to American and Bosnian officials. It involved such U.S. allies as Pakistan, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Argentina.

President Bill Clinton to give Croatia a diplomatic "green light" for the shipments, according to the U.S. national security adviser, Anthony Lake.

Bosnian government officials said that by 1993, arms or money for arms purchases were also being supplied through the Turkish pipeline by Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Brunei and Pakistan, and that other weapons shipments came from Hungary and Argentina.

American officials knew of most of the arms shipments but took no action, despite Mr. Clinton's public support for a United Nations-sponsored arms embargo against Bosnia, Croatia

and the other nations of the former Yugoslavia. That policy marked a break with the Bush administration, which strongly protested when an Iranian plane flew to Zagreb in September 1992 with 4,000 assault weapons, prompting Croatia to impound the cargo.

Administration officials have said that no covert action was taken to support the weapons smuggling and that U.S. actions amounted to turning a blind eye to the shipments. But several congressional committees, including a House select committee named Friday, are now investigating the arms smuggling and Mr. Clinton's decision in April 1994 to have U.S. envoys tell

President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia that the United States did not object to the shipments.

Republicans have asserted that the administration allowed Iran to gain a foothold in the Balkans by not opposing the shipments, and they plan to investigate whether American officials in the region may have taken direct action to encourage or facilitate the smuggling.

Bosnian officials said the Balkan arms smuggling pipeline took shape during the fall of 1992, six months after war erupted in Bosnia between the Muslim-led government and rebel Serbs, who

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Cease-Fire In Lebanon 'Disrupted' By Attacks

But Fighting Stays Within Legal Bounds Set by Truce Deal

By Serge Schmemmann
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — Hezbollah guerrillas and Israeli forces exchanged fire in southern Lebanon on Sunday, causing the first Israeli casualties since the United States brokered an end to a major Israeli military operation inside Lebanon 15 days ago.

The agreement, negotiated by Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher in a week of intensive shuttle diplomacy between Jerusalem and Damascus, declared only that neither side would fire on the other's civilians.

Renewed Hezbollah attacks over the last week inside Israel's self-proclaimed buffer zone in southern Lebanon confirmed the militant Islamic organization's intention to continue the fight to oust the Israelis from south Lebanon.

The Israeli government accused Hezbollah of "disrupting" the agreement, but stopped short of saying that the guerrillas had violated it.

The Israeli opposition, however, was quick to attack Prime Minister Shimon Peres and the outcome of the military operation he ordered last month.

"The attacks on Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon prove Peres's failure in the Grapes of Wrath operation," the opposition Likud said in a statement, using the operation's code name. "Peres had said the understandings would last until the elections. The reality is different."

Mr. Peres faces a stiff challenge in the May 29 election from the Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu, with security emerging as the dominant, if not the sole, issue in the campaign. Mr. Netanyahu sharply criticized the American arrangement when it was reached April 26, saying that it did not substantially change the situation in south Lebanon.

For his part, Mr. Peres declared that the arrangement had achieved the major goal, which was to tighten the restrictions on firing into civilian areas. So far, no violations have been reported by either side.

The most important element of the agreement was the establishment of an international panel to referee fighting in the buffer zone, comprising the United States, France, Israel, Syria and Lebanon. But negotiations on setting up the commission are still continuing in Washington, with no indication when it

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An airboat, a swamp buggy and a police helicopter joining the recovery operation on Sunday at the crash site in the Everglades, where the ValuJet airliner sank in alligator-infested waters.

Search Called Off for Survivors in Everglades Crash

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MIAMI — More than 24 hours after the Florida Everglades swallowed up a DC-9 with 109 people aboard, rescue workers had recovered no bodies and only small pieces of the jet, officials said Sunday.

Airboats fanned out, and crews prepared to move excavating equipment through the muddy waters — infested by alligators and poisonous snakes — to reach the crash site.

Early Sunday, the authorities called off the search for survivors of ValuJet Flight 592, which plunged into the swamp after taking off from Miami International Airport on Saturday. The

plane was bound for Atlanta. "There's no place to hide for the victims," said Luis Fernandez, a spokesman for the rescue mission. "There's so much water and so much muck out there, we really don't know what is left of the plane."

Some fire and police workers trembled with emotion as they described finding small bits and pieces from the airplane, which was carrying 104 passengers and 5 crew members.

"I saw a family album floating on the water," one rescue worker said. "It was a mother with young children."

Another said he found baby clothing in the mud.

It was the first fatal crash for ValuJet, a discount airline that has grown rapidly since it was founded in 1993. The Atlanta-based company's low fares have forced other U.S. airlines to slash prices in major markets like Atlanta, New York, Miami and Washington.

The airline recently began operating out of La Guardia Airport in New York and announced that it was expecting a boom for the Summer Olympics, which will be in Atlanta.

At the crash site, an initial plan to build a gravel road was dropped because of environmental concerns. Searchers planned to use a levee to move heavy equipment close to the crash site, and

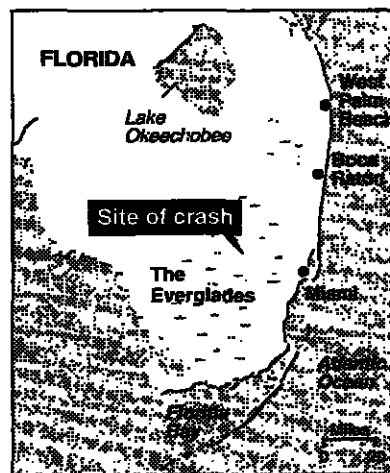
were considering using pontoon bridges to get investigators and recovery equipment across the final 1,000 feet (about 300 meters), Mr. Fernandez said.

Shortly after takeoff, the pilot radioed the air traffic control tower to report smoke in the cockpit, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. The DC-9 turned around and crashed 15 miles northwest of Miami.

"We found no survivors, no victims no body parts, just some clothes floating on the water," Mr. Fernandez said.

The shallow, slow-moving waters and thick mud hid what wreckage re-

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Hindus Lose Momentum In India Talks

By John F. Burns
New York Times Service

NEW DELHI — The momentum in India's postelection maneuvering appeared Sunday to be moving against the formation of the country's first Hindu nationalist government and in favor of efforts to line up a ruling coalition with the backing of the Congress (I) Party.

Still reeling from its debacle in the election, the Congress Party met and rejected the caretaker prime minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, as leader of the parliamentary rump left to it by the election.

A conclave of senior party leaders meeting at Mr. Rao's official residence decided earlier in the day to offer support to a center-left coalition, but to remain outside any new government while the Congress Party seeks to recover from its worst election showing in 50 years.

Mr. Rao, 74, safe for the moment from the wrath gathering in the party at his lackluster campaign performance, offered a characteristically ambivalent formula for the approach the party will



Liberian refugees, estimated to number 3,500, aboard the rusting Nigerian freighter Bulk Challenge off Ghana.

Liberian Refugees Riot Aboard a Jammed Ship

By Howard W. French
New York Times Service

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast. — With panic mounting among 3,500 refugees fleeing Liberia's civil war aboard a rusting Nigerian freighter that had been refused entry to several West African countries, desperate passengers rioted on the ship Sunday, reportedly overwhelming the captain of the vessel.

The uprising occurred off the Ghanaian coast near the western town of Axim, where the leaky and badly overcrowded ship, the Bulk Challenge, had been moored for more than 24 hours awaiting approval from a West African government to offload its passengers.

The freighter docked in Takoradi, Ghana, on Sunday after a week at sea with no port willing to admit them, witnesses said. But port officials said late Sunday that the ship was forced out to sea again after passengers were fed and given medical care.

The Ghanaian Navy earlier drove the rusting Nigerian freighter Bulk Challenge away from the port when it

tried to force its way in, apparently under pressure from passengers.

Port officials said authorities allowed the vessel to return because it was running out of fuel.

As the situation on board the ship grew more grim, there were reports Sunday of the death of one passenger who bled to death for lack of medical treatment.

Sources said that Ghana had returned to its original firm stand against permitting the refugees to disembark because of the discovery of two bodies from a shooting incident on the vessel.

And international relief experts said that many of those aboard, especially the 300 or so children, now stood in grave danger of succumbing to outbreaks of diarrhea, typhoid and pneumonia.

"Clearly, after eight days at sea, the situation aboard that boat is dire," said Rupert Colville, an official with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

"The sanitation and medical situ-

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AGENDA

Estonia Arms IRA, Moscow Says

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's intelligence services are ready to inform Britain and Ireland over alleged arms supplies from the Baltic republic of Estonia to the banned Irish Republican Army, Inter-Tass news agency said Sunday.

The Estonian Foreign Ministry earlier had denied Russian allegations that weapons were being supplied to the IRA through Estonia's voluntary paramilitary organization, Kaitseliit.

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American Dream Goes for \$177,000

By Richard Perez-Pena
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Fifty-three cab drivers, nearly all of them born half a world away, have become entrepreneurs as the winning bidders in New York City's first sale of new taxi medallions since the Depression.

To the drivers, the prize was nothing short of the essential promise of America: a chance to go into business after years of working for others.

The successful bidders, most from India, Pakistan or Bangladesh, had offered up to \$177,000 for the right to

work mind-numbing, 70-hour weeks for an income rarely ever \$30,000 a year.

Over the last two decades, as the price of medallions has soared, many medallion buyers have treated them more as investments to be sold at a profit than as keys to the taxi business. But not the drivers at the commission meeting.

"I want to drive for me," said Noor Biswas, 39, a native of Bangladesh who bid \$175,000. "I buy so I can drive. No more work for someone else."

"It's not really a good job, but it's hard to find another job, and this way, I work for me," said Jaswant Singh Ghoti, 34, who has had to lease medallions in his five and a half years as a cabbie. "This is independence."

With a sealed bid of \$175,114.99, Mr. Ghoti, who grew up in India, became on Friday the proud owner of a newly minted medallion. His brother, Balbir Singh, of Flushing, Queens, bid a dollar more and also left a winner. The two men, both husbands and fathers, stood side by side, beaming, after the bids were opened, and admitted to no doubts about the wisdom of going deeply into debt.

The medallion, the metal shield affixed to a yellow cab's hood, represents

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Newstand Prices			
Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon	11.3000
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco	14 Dh
Cambodia	1.600 CFA	Qatar	10.00 Rials
Egypt	10.00 FF	Reunion	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R
Gabon	11.00 CFA	Senegal	1.100 CFA
Greece	350 Dr.	Spain	225 PTAS
Italy	2.800 Lire	Turkey	1.250 Liras
Ivory Coast	1.250 CFA	U.A.E.	10.00 Dirh
Jordan	1.250 JD	U.S. Mail (Eur.)	\$1.20



UN's New Breed of Viceroy

There was an unnerving but palpable feeling in the air that Cambodians

A Briton who was the highest-ranking woman at the United Nations before her retirement, Dame Margaret Anstee had unique worries when, as the lone female special representative in 1992 and 1993, she was asked to



Mr. Akashi surrounded by UN soldiers at the Tuzla airport during his mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Some special representatives of the secretary general do have a weakness for luxury and a taste for private planes and cars with leather uphol-

But Mr. Akashi, who went on from Cambodia to lead the ill-fated United Nations mission in Bosnia, is not one

"In the back of my mind was the memory of the occupation of Japan, which was enlightened and generous and liberal," he said in an interview. "But some of the democratic policies were changed, some even abolished by subsequent, more conservative Japanese governments — not because they were opposed to the policies, but because they were given to us by foreigners."

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THE AMERICAS

More Teenagers Do the Crime and Do Adult Time

By Fox Butterfield
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In the most drastic changes to the juvenile justice system since the founding of the first family court a century ago, almost all 50 states are allowing more youths to be tried as adults and scrapping long-time protections like the confidentiality of juvenile court proceedings.

The major thrust of the new laws, enacted in the last two years, is to get more juveniles into the adult criminal justice system, where they will presumably serve longer, harsher sentences.

Proponents of the changes see this as the only way to stop an epidemic of juvenile crime. In the last decade, for example, arrest rates for homicides committed by 14- to 17-year-olds have more than tripled.

And the number of teenagers is projected to increase by 20 percent in the next decade, which will produce a new surge in crime, many experts believe.

"The thinking behind the juvenile court, that everything be done in the best interest of the child, is from a bygone era," said Patricia L. West, director of the Virginia Department of Juvenile

Justice, which was created by the state Legislature in April. While the original juvenile court, established in Chicago in 1899, was intended to deal with miscreants who might throw a rock through a shopkeeper's window, "now we have juveniles committing violent repeat crimes no one ever anticipated," Ms. West said.

So Virginia has adjusted its philosophy, she said, making issues of public safety and victims' rights as important as protecting the interest of the child.

Among the changes in Virginia's new law, which parallels those adopted recently

in many other states, are provisions requiring any child 14 or older who is charged with murder to be tried as an adult.

The law also gives prosecutors and judges greatly expanded authority to transfer other juveniles into adult courts. And, in a sharp departure from a century of practices intended to protect youths, juvenile court proceedings in felony cases will now be open to the public, juveniles will be fingerprinted and their records will no longer be expunged.

Critics say the moves are endangering children. "We are stepping down a very grim

path toward eliminating childhood," said Lisa Greer, an official of the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office who is a member of a state panel studying ways to overhaul the juvenile justice system in California.

There are now several bills before the California Legislature that would double or triple the number of young people who could be tried as adults.

Howard Snyder, director of systems research for the National Center for Juvenile Justice in Pittsburgh, said, "The interesting thing is that these people yelling to put more kids into the adult system seem to be forgetting that they have been yelling that the adult prison system is a failure and is letting too many criminals out."

Barry Krisberg, president of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency in San Francisco, said, "What we are really frightened about is guns, but instead of launching a war against guns we are launching a war against kids."

What is disturbing, he said, is that the public is trying to lower the age of adulthood rather than see what is happening as a failure of society.

Because the changes in juvenile laws are happening so fast, with some states switching their statutes almost every year, there are no national data on the total number of juveniles tried and incarcerated as adults, Mr. Snyder said.

But a new study of juvenile offenders tried in adult courts in Florida found that those sentenced to adult prisons reverted to a life of crime more quickly after they were released, and committed more, and more serious, crimes than those in juvenile institutions.

"Overall, the results sug-



TITLED HEADS — Graduates of the writing program at the University of Southern California using their caps as protest platforms to criticize the practice of book banning in certain American high schools.

AMERICAN TOPICS

Weary of Coffee and Cola? Try Caffeine-Laced Water

Imagine coffee without the coffee, soda pop with just the pop. That's Water Joe, perhaps the strangest New Age beverage yet—just plain water mixed with a dollop of caffeine.

Caffeinated water is favored by a surprising mix of people united solely by their need for a jolt: truckers and traveling salesmen whose stomachs rebel at the day's fifth or sixth cup of coffee or can of cola, bartenders and students trying to stay alert in the wee hours, or coffee fanatics looking for ways to brew their java with an extra kick.

And, reports Barnaby J. Feder of The New York Times, don't forget those raucous futures traders at the Chicago Board of Trade, where to avoid messes, bottled water is the only beverage allowed on the trading floor.

Water Joe — "Joe" was a World War II nickname for coffee among the military — is distributed by Nicolet Forest Bottling Company in the Chicago suburb of South Barrington.

About 70,000 cases of Water Joe are shipped each week to 12 states. It is

usually priced 89 cents to \$1.09 a bottle.

Short Takes

If you are not burning enough calories in your daily workouts, try the treadmill. Researchers at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee say it burned more calories than five other exercise machines. Exercising on the treadmill at a level of effort categorized as somewhat rigorous burned about 700 calories an hour, compared with 627 on the stair machine; 606 on the rower; 593 on the cross-country ski machine; 509 on the Airdyne, a stationary bicycle that works by pedaling with the legs and pulling on bars with the arms; and 498 on a regular stationary bike.

Around Yellowstone National Park, five wolf dens are alive with new litters, leading biologists to predict that the wolf packs introduced from Canada during the last year and a half will thrive on their own, without more imports. In addition to 17 adult wolves that were added in January, biologists have counted eight new pups in two litters and are confident that three more females gave birth in late April.

About People

Not all poets starve. In a cover story on "Getting Rich Outside Corporate America," the latest issue of *Forbes*

magazine reveals that Maya Angelou, 68, makes \$4.3 million a year. Last year her agents, Lordy & Dame, booked her into \$2 million worth of speeches, at \$30,000 each. Royalties from her 14 books earned her another \$2 million last year, and teaching and acting chores brought in an additional \$350,000. "I didn't know about making money from writing as a child," she told *Forbes*. "I thought success meant having an attaché case and a pair of shoes and bags that matched."

Mom's home cooking is not always that great. The latest issue of *Food & Wine* includes some testimony: "My mom was not a cook. Whenever we were bad, our punishment was being sent to bed with dinner."

— Joan Rivers

"My mother's menu consisted of two choices: Take it or leave it."

— Buddy Hackett

"Mom worked in a laboratory testing food, and would bring home samples for our dinner. Sometimes she'd have to report that Formula X had been found unfit for human consumption."

— Tracey Ullman

"The most remarkable thing about my mother is that for 30 years she served nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found."

— Calvin Trillin

Joint Chiefs Amend Mine-Ban Effort

UN Proposal Is Watered Down

By Philip Shenon
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The Joint Chiefs of Staff have watered down a proposed United Nations moratorium on land mines that would allow the use of mines anywhere the United States and its allies need protection from an enemy across a demilitarized zone, according to administration officials.

The proposal, which was presented to President Bill Clinton in a White House meeting Friday, would allow the use of mines indefinitely in Korea and in other potential war zones where the United States and its allies patrol a demilitarized area recognized by the UN.

The wording of a statement by the Joint Chiefs suggests that the United States could use mines in the Gulf, including the buffer zone between Kuwait and Iraq established after the 1991 war, and in other regions where war is a threat.

Legislators and organizations seeking a complete ban on land mines said they were outraged by the recommendations, which came after a two-year Pentagon study of whether land mines were still needed in the U.S. military arsenal.

More than 20,000 people, mostly civilians, are killed or maimed by mines each year, and several international organizations have joined in a campaign for a worldwide ban on their use.

A copy of the recommendations from the Joint Chiefs was made available by indi-

viduals critical of the Pentagon's findings. Anti-mine groups were alarmed earlier last week by reports that Mr. Clinton would approve a moratorium on land mines that would allow their use in Korea. Under Friday's recommendation, the exceptions appear even broader.

"The Pentagon's recommendation would be a tragic failure of American leadership," said Senator Patrick Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, who has led Congressional efforts to totally ban the use of land mines. "Instead of encouraging other countries to stop using these weapons, it would give a green light to their continued use for years to come."

Robert O. Muller, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, said his group and others would seek to persuade Mr. Clinton to reject the recommendation of the Joint Chiefs.

"The proposal would make a mockery of the president's concern and would run a dagger through the heart of our international campaign to ban this weapon," Mr. Muller said.

Kenneth Bacon, the Defense Department's chief spokesman, defended the recommendations, which he described as subject to change. "We're looking for a formula that will meet the president's promise of eliminating the use of anti-personnel land mines," Mr. Bacon said. "There's a humanitarian imperative to do this, but we have to balance the humanitarian imperative with the need to protect our forces."

Dole Plays the Tax-Cut Card

WASHINGTON — Energized by Senator Bob Dole's proposal to repeal the 4.3-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax, Republicans are looking for ways to inject tax cuts often into the 1996 campaign.

And President Bill Clinton's announcement that he would support the temporary repeal of a tax he pushed through Congress illustrates his administration's determination to keep Mr. Clinton from looking like a big-taxing liberal.

The gasoline-tax repeal has still not been passed by the Senate, and, at best, it would not put much money into consumers' pockets. But for months, many Republicans have believed that taxes remain one of the most potent ways to erode Mr. Clinton's lead.

"Don't forget what propelled Ronald Reagan into the presidency: Hate communism, cut taxes," said Tom Korologos, a former member of the Nixon and Ford administrations and a longtime friend of Mr. Dole's. "Boy, that worked so well. This is the Republican mantra: Cut taxes, cut taxes."

Mr. Clinton and his aides have long expected a Republican assault on the tax front and stand ready to showcase the various options for tax relief in the president's budget proposal. (AP)

Doling Out Blame for Crime

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky — Although the number of murders committed across America has dropped, Bob Dole says that the country is still not safe because of the liberal oratory and inaction of President Bill Clinton.

Addressing a rally outside police headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska, Mr. Dole declared: "Unlike the liberals, I don't think society is to blame for crime — I think criminals are to blame for crime. In my view, killing is caused by killers, robbing by robbers, drug-dealing by drug-dealers. That's what it's all about."

While Mr. Dole painted himself as much tougher on crime and criminals than Mr. Clinton, he offered no new solutions to the problems he described.

George Stephanopoulos, an adviser to Mr. Clinton, said by telephone from Washington that Mr. Dole was off the mark on several points: "President Clinton has a solid record of putting cops on the street and taking guns off, despite Senator Dole's opposition every step of the way," Mr. Stephanopoulos said. (NYT)

Easing Rules of Child Adoption

WASHINGTON — The House has overwhelmingly approved a bill that would make it easier and more affordable to adopt a child in the United States.

The bill, passed Friday by 393 to 15, includes a tax credit of up to \$5,000 to all but the richest families who adopt children. This is an element of the Republican "Contract With America." The bill also makes it easier for couples to adopt children who have different racial or ethnic backgrounds. Current law gives preference to same-race placements. (NYT)

Quote/Unquote

Bob Dole, on the Clinton family's cat: "We're going to send Socks back to Little Rock. We're going to put a leader in the White House. I have a schnauzer named Leader." (NYT)

Away From Politics

Three drug users died and more than 50 others were hospitalized in Baltimore after taking a concoction that they mistakenly thought was heroin, the police said. Capsules found in the pockets of two of the victims contained an anti-motion sickness drug, a cough suppressant and a cutting agent. The victims were either unconscious or semiconscious and incoherent. (AP)

O.J. Simpson smilingly shrugged off questions about his wife's murder and went to play golf during his visit to Britain. Mr. Simpson, acquitted last year of the brutal killings of his wife, Nicole, and her male friend, was greeted with shouts of "murderer" when he landed at London's Heathrow Airport to face a phalanx of reporters. He is to appear on a television talk show on Monday and will address Oxford University's debating society on Tuesday. (Reuters)

Perot Group: Standing but Not United

By Ernest Tollerson
New York Times Service

DALLAS — Just weeks after Ross Perot's unsuccessful campaign for the White House in 1992, he started what he touted as a citizen-financed, nonpartisan truth squad that would transform the way in which Washington does the people's business.

But today, as Mr. Perot tries to put a third party on the 1996 presidential ballot and ponders a second run for the Oval Office, the group, United We Stand America, is only a skeleton of what he set out to build.

Mr. Perot and his allies are investing more of their energy, and a lot of his money, these days in an effort to build an alternative to the Democratic and Republican parties that is called the Reform Party. But the fluctuating dues and membership and infighting at United We Stand America, where Mr. Perot is chairman, has raised serious doubts among former Perot supporters about his self-portrait as a no-nonsense chief executive able to manage the nation's affairs.

"In other words, if you can't form a rather small grassroots organization and do a better job than Ross Perot, can you imagine him trying to form a government and a cabinet that can lead our nation?" said David W. Morgan, for most of 1993 the volunteer chairman for the group in Washington state. United We Stand America is a fragile skeleton at that. Most of its national staff has moved over to Mr. Perot's nascent party. Its membership apparently plummeted after

1993. And the group, contrary to the vision of a dues-financed organization, had huge infusions of money and in-kind services from Mr. Perot, a Texas billionaire.

State chapters have been riven by factional fighting in recent years, while battles between the group's Dallas headquarters and its grassroots volunteers have spawned a network of the disillusioned who oppose the autocratic management style of Mr. Perot and consider him unfit to run the organization, let alone the nation. In Las Vegas last fall, they symbolically fired him.

Two sex discrimination lawsuits have been filed by former United We Stand state directors in Vermont and Wisconsin. The remnants of the New York chapter are

fighting with Dallas over the right to use the organization's name. And dissidents in Ohio are asserting that the national group and Mr. Perot — in violation of federal election laws — diverted assets from their group to the one trying to create a third party.

Mr. Perot's aides maintain that the charges are false, the lawsuits without merit, and the dissension within the ranks much overblown. And they say the development of the Reform Party has in no way been a drain on the membership and the effectiveness of United We Stand.

"We want to be judged on our performance, not an arbitrary number," said Russell Verney, the national coordinator of Mr. Perot's third-party efforts and now the group's volunteer executive director.

The group, for instance, has garnered some credit for pressing passage of a ban on gifts to legislators.

But former Perot supporters tend to be less charitable. "The formation of United We Stand America was just a front for his real aspirations — to run for president again," said Kirk MacKenzie, voluntary California chairman from mid-1993 until mid-1994. "It was just a hoax."

Mr. Verney dismisses critics as people who "had a falling out with their peers in their states."

They are "an infinitesimal fraction of the type of dissidents" in the Republican and Democratic parties, he added.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Hong Kong to Speed Up Return of Vietnamese

China Assails Colony After Violence

HONG KONG — Hong Kong officials said Sunday that they would speed up the forced return of Vietnamese asylum-seekers this month despite rioting and a mass escape that gravely damaged a refugee camp.

The Chinese government criticized the colony's government after scores were injured and dozens of buildings and vehicles torched in the violence that began at the Whitehead detention center on Friday and continued Saturday.

More than 100 refugees, many armed with homemade weapons, escaped from the camp. The police said 28 were still at large Sunday after four more were found in a continuing manhunt.

The authorities said one reason that the refugees, who were resisting forced repatriation, torched the camp was to destroy immigration records and hamper their return to Hanoi.

"It did cause us a little bit of inconvenience over the last couple of days in identifying individual Vietnamese," Secretary for Security Peter Lai said Sunday.

Mr. Lai added, however, that the program of forced repatriation would nonetheless be speeded up with 600 Vietnamese being sent home against their will this month.

One of China's top officials in the colony, Zhang Junsheng, blamed Britain for the problem and insisted that the "boat people" must be gone when China takes over next year.

"We don't understand why the Vietnamese have not been sent back to their country over such a long period of time," Mr. Zhang said. "Neither do the Hong Kong people."

Riot policemen fired thousands of rounds of tear gas as about 3,000 asylum-seekers went on the rampage. The rioters razed 26 buildings, set ablaze 53 vehicles, burned camp records and injured about 50 officers.

On Sunday, hundreds of residents of nearby Sham Tin town demonstrated outside the camp's main entrance against the Vietnamese and called for stronger security measures.

"We can see from this incident in

Whitehead detention center the violence is escalating," said a Shatin district board member, Lau Kong-wah.

"How can the government cope with this kind of happening? If all the detention centers in Hong Kong riot, then it will be a great risk," Mr. Lau said.

Commissioner for Correctional Services Raymond Lai said tension was still high at Whitehead, although some instigators have been moved to local prisons.

But their removal did not mean an end to the violence, he warned.

"There are bound to be others that spring up if you put the troublemakers away," he said.

Pam Baker, a lawyer, said the government's detention policy was partly to blame for the trouble.

"The Hong Kong government has not been open to suggestions which would allow a civilized and humanitarian end to the saga," she said.

There are around 18,000 Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong camps. The huge majority have been deemed economic migrants and not eligible for asylum in a third country.

The camp riot was not the only bruising news for Hong Kong over the weekend. Pro-China demonstrators mobbed Governor Chris Patten at the airport as he flew home and accused him of sullying Hong Kong's name abroad in the period before China's takeover of the colony.

Waving placards declaring, "Shut up and stop discrediting the business sector," protesters handed Mr. Patten petitions objecting to remarks he made in the United States and Canada. Mr. Patten urged President Bill Clinton not to impose trade sanctions on China because the fallout would damage Hong Kong.

But he also accused the colony's business leaders of selling out the aspirations and democratic freedoms of ordinary people secure in the knowledge they had a foreign passport if things got rough.

Many Hong Kong people fear repressive rule from China because Beijing has said it will scrap their elected legislature.



WHAT'S THE SCORE? — A young Beijing flutist keeping a wary eye on the conductor during a flute recital.

Xinjiang Schism Worries Beijing

BEIJING — Officials in China's northwestern Xinjiang region have ordered a crackdown on violent separatists, saying a rash of bombings, riots and "terrorist activities" was being organized in the largely Muslim area.

In a front-page appeal in the Xinjiang Daily, local leaders called on officials not to aid "splittists" and to be on high alert against foreigners using religion to stir up anti-Chinese sentiment in the region that borders three mainly Muslim states of Central Asia as well as Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Last month, China signed a treaty with Russia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to guard against military clashes along its border, and diplomats said the strategic accord would help Beijing to combat any surge in Muslim sentiment and separatism in Xinjiang.

Xinjiang Communist Party leaders conducted a meeting of party officials of all ethnic groups from across the region

from May 3 to 6 to fight separatism, the newspaper said in its May 7 edition received in Beijing on Sunday.

"Especially in the last few years, against the background of intensified infiltrative, splittist and subversive activities in Xinjiang by some hostile forces in the West, local ethnic splittist activities have entered a period of revived dynamism," the paper said, quoting from a document approved at the meeting.

It cited a surge in subversion, bombings and "terrorist activities" and said extremists were using the cloak of religion to incite holy wars.

"Almost all of these had a background of ethnic splittist activism, and not one was linked to illegal religious activities," the document said.

China has waged a sometimes brutal campaign to counter Muslim and ethnic nationalism, using troops to crush uprisings and pressuring surrounding republics to crack down on Xinjiang sep-

arartists operating from their territory.

"In recent years, religion has directly interfered with administration, law enforcement, education, family planning and other social services," officials at the meeting concluded.

"Those who have brazenly violated China's religious laws and policies and have deceived and coerced some ignorant masses who have naive feelings about religion to engage in splittist and disruptive activities are by no means rare," the final document said in an unusual signal of the extent of the rise of Muslim feeling.

In fact, so common was the problem that it was infecting party officials, the participants heard.

China insists party members have no religious beliefs.

The depth of the Muslim revival in a region of ethnic minorities was underscored by a warning that separatism and religion were the main dangers affecting Xinjiang's stability.

China Fulfills U.S. Demand For Pledge on Nuclear Sales

BEIJING — China and the United States have defused a dispute over Beijing's alleged sales of nuclear weapons-related technology as a Foreign Ministry spokesman formally announced that China was strictly observing the nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty.

The statement was part of a deal to avert U.S. sanctions over alleged Chinese sales of nuclear arms-related technology to Pakistan.

"China pursues the policy of not endorsing, encouraging or engaging in the proliferation of nuclear weapons, or assisting other countries in developing such weapons," the official Xinhua press agency quoted the spokesman as saying.

"The nuclear cooperation between China and the countries concerned is exclusively for peaceful purposes," the spokesman said. "China will not provide assistance to unsafeguarded nuclear facilities."

The announcement followed Washington's decision on Friday not to impose sanctions on Beijing for the alleged sale to Pakistan of \$70,000 worth of ring magnets that can be used to enrich uranium.

The United States rescinded its threat to impose sanctions on China under the 1994 U.S. Nuclear Nonproliferation Act after winning assurances from Beijing that it would not make such sales in the future and would make a public statement saying so.

The long-awaited resolution of this issue opened the way for the U.S. Export-Import Bank to begin approving loans and loan guarantees for more than \$11 billion in American business projects in China.

Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher outraged Beijing last month when he asked the bank to delay final approval on all China-related projects until he decided whether to impose sanctions on China over the nuclear technology issue.

Although the settlement of this question has eased some of the friction between the two countries, they remain locked in a dispute over alleged Chinese copyright piracy.

In Washington, some members of Congress were dubious about the deal on nuclear technology.

The Senate majority leader, Bob Dole, criticized the administration for rejecting targeted sanctions, such as punishing the Chinese Army or an individual company. Mr. Dole, the probable Republican presidential nominee, said in a statement that he was most troubled that the administration had disregarded China's nuclear cooperation with Iran.

Representative Nancy Pelosi, Democrat of California, a leading congressional critic of China's human rights record, said she was disappointed.

"We have seen the Chinese government repeatedly promise to halt the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and repeatedly break those promises," she said. "Now the administration seems to have settled yet again for an empty promise."

A spokesman for Senator Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the administration had "finessed" the central issues, including China's providing technology to Iran, pirating American products and forcing women to have abortions.

"What concessions has the administration gotten on any issue that is of importance to the American people in exchange for this capitulation?" asked the spokesman, Marc A. Thiessen. "Nothing." (Reuters, AP)

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A Symbolic Victory In Okinawa Duel

TOKYO (AP) — A landowner who wants to evict the U.S. military from his property in Okinawa won a symbolic victory when a state committee rejected the Japanese government's request to continue using the land.

The Okinawa Prefecture Land Expropriation Committee said Saturday that the government had failed to prove that parcel, about the size of a tennis court, was essential to the operation of the U.S. Navy's Sasebo Communications Center.

'One China' Demand

BEIJING — China told Taiwan on Sunday that verbal assurances of commitment to the "one China" principle carried little weight and demanded proof that the island supported reunification.

"It is high time for the Taiwan authorities to take concrete actions since they have made commitments that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait should keep to the 'one China' prin-

For the Record:

At least 20 people in Nepal were killed in heavy storms on Sunday, officials said.

Thailand's prime minister and nine of his cabinet members easily survived a no-confidence vote Saturday. Prime Minister Banham Silpa-archa prevailed as the opposition walked out of Parliament to protest Mr. Banham's decision Friday night to cut short a three-day debate about accusations of corruption.

VOICES From Asia

Tim Fischer, deputy prime minister of Australia, on the gun controls imposed after the slaughter of 35 people by a gunman in Tasmania: "This is a major turning point in the interests of all Australians. People are determined, spurred by the saga of Port Arthur, to get it right." (Reuters)

Imelda Marcos, the former first lady of the Philippines, on a proposed congressional investigation into her finances: "On Mother's Day, this inquisition is a gift from heaven. The truth will prevail." (Reuters)

CROSSWORD

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EUROPE

Red Flags Are Going Up, Warning of Communism

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PRAGUE — Warning of the deteriorating political situation in Eastern Europe, prominent U.S. and European conservatives said Sunday that recent post-Cold War optimism has been reversed as the region slips toward the grip of renaissance communism.

President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic said starkly that "time is working against democrats, against those who want peace and peaceful co-operation" on Europe's eastern flank. Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain castigated Western governments for "complacency" as Russia and many former Soviet satellites turn increasingly to governments offering socialist-style security and nationalistic foreign policies.

One country apparently spared this spreading disillusion with Western values is the Czech Republic, and the architect of its economic buoyancy, Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus, insisted that his country could not be lumped with its neighbors as a region in crisis. But he joined calls for rapid enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union to prevent the spread of instability and stagnation.

The leaders spoke at a meeting in Prague sponsored by conservative U.S. and Czech foundations and intended to revive the ideological drive shared at the Cold War's end by the Reagan administration, the Thatcher government and dissidents in Eastern Europe, of whom only Mr. Havel is still in power.

During the three-day meeting, 300 participants launched the campaign, called the "new Atlantic initiative," to preserve the leading U.S. role in Europe while broadening and modernizing transatlantic military, trade and cultural ties. The initiative called for rapid NATO and EU enlargement and the encouragement of trans-Atlantic free trade in what Mr. Havel called "the Europe-American environment."

The Czech hosts were seeking to promote their early membership in the Western alliance, while the American and European participants used the platform for criticizing what they see as a lack of foreign policy vision in the Clinton administration and other Western governments.

Some proposals advocated by Amer-



Lady Thatcher speaking at a forum of the New Atlantic Initiative in Prague.

ican and British representatives, including a NATO ballistic missile defense system, met doubts among the handful of German and French conservatives, none currently in office, who attended the conference.

Pavel Bratislava, deputy Czech foreign minister, said his country could only rely on a U.S. security guaranty, but also wanted to join a European Union strong enough to offer real advantages.

Asked about the risk of Russian trouble-making in nearby countries if

the Communist candidate, Gennadi A. Zyuganov, wins next month's presidential election, Czech and Hungarian officials said the threat was not military pressure from Moscow but worse disarray in Russia.

Mr. Havel said his country urgently wanted NATO membership so that Czechs know that they can operate as part of the Western community. "Undefined areas serve certain forces to look anew for spheres of interest to penetrate," he said.

Russia Expels U.S. Businessman

The Associated Press
MOSCOW — An American businessman has been expelled from Russia after having been accused of espionage activities, the country's security agency said Sunday.

The Seattle businessman, who was identified by the regional department of the Federal Security Service as Richard Dunn Oppelt, president of Seattle Medical Export Inc., was expelled from the Kamchatka Peninsula in the Russian Far East on Friday, said Sergei Gorklenko, a spokesman for the FSB in Moscow.

The American was detained at the end of April by officers of the military counterintelligence department and the FSB, Russia's counterintelligence and domestic security agency, in the city of Pet-

ropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Mr. Gorklenko said. Richard Hoagland, press attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, said the embassy "has no information on this reported incident."

Since last Monday, the security agency has unveiled cases touching on espionage, nuclear theft and alleged arms sales to the IRA.

The most sensational was Monday's announcement that a Russian government employee had been arrested for giving secret information to British agents, and was charged with treason, punishable by death. In what threatened to become the biggest espionage flap since the Cold War, Russia suggested that nine British diplomats would be expelled.

Prodi Promises 'Serious' Cabinet

In North, a 'Shadow Government'

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ROME — Romano Prodi said Sunday that he was about to announce a cabinet that would inspire international confidence, and he played down the threat of secession as the Northern League set up its own "government."

Mr. Prodi, an economist and leader of the center-left Olive Tree coalition, which won the elections April 21, said he would choose "the people who provide a guarantee of seriousness for other countries."

"We must produce a government which completely reassures the international political and economic community with internationally known personalities as well as fresh faces," he added during an interview with Italian state television RAI.

He confirmed that he would make the retiring prime minister, Lamberto Dini, foreign minister and would appoint the former anti-corruption magistrate Antonio Di Pietro as the public works minister. Both men represent the more moderate wing of the Olive Tree.

Mr. Prodi, who is expected to be charged with forming a new government at midweek and could present his team before Parliament at the end of the week, also confirmed that Giorgio Napolitano would also be given an important job in the cabinet.

Mr. Napolitano was a senior figure of the now defunct Communist party and former speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

Earlier on Sunday, Umberto Bossi, leader of the federalist Northern League, symbolically formed a "government" of northern Italy.

Mr. Bossi "claimed the right to the secession and to the resistance which is the basis of any constitution."

He said the demand was "personal," however, and was not yet sought by the self-declared government, although it could be at a future date.

Members voted unanimously by a show of hands for Giancarlo Pagliarini, a former minister in the 1994 government of Silvio Berlusconi, to become its prime minister. Mr. Pagliarini was nominated by Mr. Bossi, and he was the only candidate.

Mr. Bossi last year founded a "Parliament of the north" in the medieval town of Mantua to push for a federal constitution and electoral reform.

He wants a separate state in the north called Padania and has called for Italy to be divided just as Czechoslovakia was.

The Northern League's new government has 10 members. The party, meeting in a villa in Bagnolo San Vito that was once the seat of a Nazi commando, also set up a 10-member provisional Committee for the Liberation of Padania.

A full committee will be elected June 2 in Pontida. The provisional liberation committee decided to spend the next two weeks drawing up a statute.

Before the vote, Mr. Bossi said, "This government is a great hope for Padania and if, as I believe, it is true that this country is heading for collapse with no way out, this government will represent the hope that in the end, there will be a way out." (AFP, Reuters)

A Defense of NATO

Mr. Prodi on Sunday dismissed the call by a political ally for the country to pull out of NATO. The Associated Press reported from Rome. "For me, NATO remains the pillar of our defense," Mr. Prodi said in a broadcast interview.

"It's clear that together with the Americans and other Europeans we have to see what the new NATO will be," he said.

"But," Mr. Prodi added, "nobody is thinking about leaving NATO and dissolving NATO."

BRIEFLY EUROPE

German Ruling Due on Asylum

BONN — The Constitutional Court will rule Tuesday on whether to tone down tough legislation that replaced Europe's most liberal asylum law three years ago and cut by two-thirds the number of people seeking asylum in Germany.

Since Parliament passed new regulations in 1993, the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe has been inundated with complaints citing 1,100 cases.

Taking five test cases, judges will decide whether the law — the culmination of what one commentator called "the longest and most dangerous row in the history of post-war Germany" — was unconstitutional. (Reuters)

Two Shots Hit French Train

BLOIS, France — Two bullets hit a Toulouse-Paris passenger train near St. Sulpice-Lauriere, 280 kilometers south of Paris, but no one was injured, a witness said Sunday. (AFP)

Chirac-Kohl Defense Talks

BONN — President Jacques Chirac and Chancellor Helmut Kohl have agreed to step up defense and security cooperation between their countries, a German government spokesman said.

The leaders, who dined Friday in Mr. Kohl's bungalow, agreed to meet again June 5 in Dijon. (Reuters)

Swiss Firm to Open Archives

ZURICH — The Swiss shoe company Bally, accused of taking over Jewish companies seized by Germany during World War II, will open its archives to historians to clarify its wartime activities, a newspaper reported.

"Our archives are fundamentally open for professional historians," Oerlikon-Bührle Holding AG chairman Hans Widmer said in an interview published in the Swiss newspaper SonntagsZeitung. Bally is a division of Oerlikon-Bührle. He also said he would open the books of Bührle, which was a weapons producer during the Nazi era in Germany. (Reuters)

Calendar

EU Agenda for Monday, May 13

BRUSSELS — EU Foreign ministers meet. Russia, the former Yugoslavia and the Middle East are on the agenda.

BRUSSELS — European Commissioner for Relations with the Mediterranean meets with Prime Minister Rafik Hariri of Lebanon.

QUIMPER, France — European Commissioner for Fisheries Emma Bonino in round-table talks with delegates from the fishing industry.

JOHANNESBURG — Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, takes part in a G7 meeting on information along with the commissioners for industry and for research, Martin Bangemann and Edith Cresson. (Sources: Agence Europe, AFP)

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INTERNATIONAL

World Aid Groups Perplexed

Liberian Experience Jolts Idea of Expanded Role

By Jonathan C. Randal
Washington Post Service

MONROVIA, Liberia — Liberia's civil war, marked by repeated bouts of looting, has severely undermined hopes that international relief organizations could become major players in meeting Third World crises in the post-Cold War world.

With renewed factional fighting in its second month in Monrovia, only three international aid groups are operating with any effectiveness in the West African country: the United Nations World Food Program, which makes sporadic food deliveries, and two French medical teams — one from Doctors Without Borders and the other from International Aid Against Hunger, both of which try to care for wounded people and distribute medicine as the security situation allows.

Most UN aid agencies, which have long been active in Liberia, left at least one representative in Monrovia, the capital, after most foreigners were evacuated last month in the wake of looting of UN and other aid groups' equipment and supplies. But they are based in the River-view district, on the far side of the Mesurado River from central Monrovia, and so cannot function effectively, according to officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The prolonged absence of foreign relief workers from Monrovia has compounded frustrations felt by disheartened humanitarian organizations and prompted soul-searching over what went wrong. More than six years and 150,000 deaths after the Liberian conflict began, Western governments, aid agencies and African

peacekeepers are grappling for a solution that would allow them to intervene effectively in this war and others likely to come.

The frustration is particularly intense among international aid groups because the decade began with many relief workers convinced they were on the threshold of insinuating themselves into the traditional processes of diplomacy and economic development policy in the Third World. A new role was opening up for them, many felt, because of the demise of great-power rivalries that previously had led to U.S. or Soviet intervention.

"After the Cold War," said Edward Girardet, director of the International Center for Humanitarian Reporting, "private relief organizations hoped the end of Africa's superpower proxy wars would open the way for them to launch long-term development projects and thus expand their own influence using Western government donor funds."

Soon after it began in December 1989, the Liberian war briefly appeared to have produced a new model for dealing with African conflicts without the distortions of superpower rivalry. In 1990, with Washington's blessing, a predominantly Nigerian regional peacekeeping force, rather than UN troops, was entrusted with restoring order.

Humanitarian aid organizations, often financed by U.S. and European Union funds, eagerly accepted the challenge of carving out expanded roles in a new disbursement process in which Western donor governments purposely avoided the spotlight.

But out of the Liberian chaos came a conclusion that the international relief agencies were mistaken in the belief that they could work on their own.

In a series of recent meetings in Brussels, Geneva, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone, aid specialists have tried to agree on conditions for returning to Liberia and resuming relief operations.

Low-Cost Airlines Are Safe, Officials Say

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Reacting to the crash of the ValuJet plane in the Florida Everglades, federal officials sought Sunday to reassure the public that low-cost carriers are safe.

"Yes, the airline is safe," the federal aviation administrator, David R. Hinson, said Sunday. "I would fly on it. It meets our standards."

Transportation Secretary Federico F. Peña said, "We will not certify any new carrier to fly in our country unless they meet our safety standards."

This was the first fatal crash on a startup airline since regulations were changed in 1978 to make it easier to get a new airline off the ground, noted Robert Francis, vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

Senator Larry Pressler, Republican of South Dakota, recalled that two weeks ago the General Accounting Office reported that "the newer airlines are doing as well as some of the older ones in terms of safety."

To be certified, an airline has to have FAA-approved equipment, maintenance programs and pilot and flight attendant training programs and must pass financial and managerial tests. Many of the new airlines have hired people who worked for now-closed carriers, like Eastern and Pan American.

Questions remain, however, about older planes flown by less experienced crews.

One aviation consultant, David S. Stempler, said that while he had flown ValuJet, he had "some concerns."

"The airplanes are old and are noticeably old," he said in an interview. "I'm not saying they're unsafe. But there are issues there."

The expansion, the older aircraft, the speed with which everything was moving is an area of concern.

Mary Fackler Schiavo, the Transportation Department's inspector-general, wrote in an essay in the upcoming issue of Newsweek magazine that she avoided flying on ValuJet because of its previous mishaps.

Ms. Schiavo, who emphasized that she had "great faith in the major U.S. carriers," wrote that "I keep seeing the holes in the safety net — gaps in regulation and oversight that can produce spectacular cases" like the ValuJet crash.

Mr. Peña expressed surprise at the crash, noting that the FAA has been working closely with ValuJet.

After a series of incidents on the airline, the FAA conducted an intense safety investigation in February.

"The findings that we made when we did the seven-day intensive review were that they needed to do a better job with their training, they needed to do a better job with their resource management, they had to have more inspectors, and they have done that," Mr. Peña said in an interview on CBS-TV.

"We made recommendations, they responded to our recommendations," he said. "So that is why this particular crash is so troubling."

Appearing earlier on NBC, Mr. Peña said the department has

"looked at the safety records of the low-cost and higher-cost airlines and they are comparable."

Mr. Peña recently issued a study applauding the growth of new airlines in the last few years, noting that it has resulted in lower ticket prices for most travelers. At that time, he also stressed the safety of the new carriers.

No less than 39 new airlines have started up in the last few years, first finding fertile markets in the West and Southwest and now expanding eastward, Mr. Peña said. Besides ValuJet, they include Air South, American Trans Air, Morris Air, Reno Air, Kiwi and Western Pacific.

Mr. Hinson said in a telephone interview that older planes did not necessarily mean any loss of safety.

Noting that the DC-9 that crashed near Miami was built 27 years ago, he said the aviation agency "has instituted a program for older aircraft."

"Each airplane type and each airline has to have a special program to deal with the question of older planes," he said.

SHIP: Liberian Refugees Riot

Continued from Page 1

ation is extremely bad," he said. "It is hard even to find space to sit down on the deck, and it is urgent that we find a way to get these people ashore. But it is by no means clear how that will happen."

Mr. Colville said that although the international relief agency Doctors Without Borders had used a small boat to shadow the ship and supply medicines, refugee experts had not yet gained access to the vessel.

International refugee officials warned Sunday that the crisis of the Bulk Challenge might merely represent the tip of the iceberg of a coming flood of Liberians seeking to flee the killing and lawlessness of Monrovia for refuge in neighboring countries that suddenly have decided not to receive them.

On Saturday, a second small freighter overloaded with over 700 passengers arrived from Liberia near the capital of neighboring Sierra Leone. Much like Ghana and Ivory Coast, authorities in Si-

erra Leone said that they would accept their own citizens only, and not fleeing Liberians.

In an effort to stem an expected exodus, troops of the West African peacekeeping force known as Ecomog began to seal off Monrovia's port Saturday to Liberians seeking entry in search of both warehouse food and passage on outbound ships.

The move came after two days of sporadic looting of relief food at the port in which desperate Liberians broke into warehouses and made off with 50-kilogram sacks of bulgur wheat.

On Friday, Ecomog troops moving in to quell the rioting reportedly shot and killed two Liberians at the port.

Ecomog troops, who were largely inactive in the early stages of the fighting in Monrovia, patrolled the streets more widely Sunday than has been the custom, and witnesses said they shot two looters. Fighting among Liberia's rival militias has continued off and on, but at much lower levels than before.

CRASH: A Difficult Search

Continued from Page 1

mained of the jet. Unlike most jet crashes which scatter fuselage and personal belongings over a wide area, the ValuJet and its passengers disappeared with barely a trace in an area about the size of two football fields.

Investigators battled waist-deep water, thick mud, snakes, razor-sharp sawgrass and an oily sheen from the jet's fuel.

Rescuers assigned people to watch for wildlife and chase off alligators.

"This area is heavily populated by alligators and poisonous snakes, and we're trying to do our best and at the same time not put any of the rescuers' lives at risk," a rescue worker said.

Flat-bottomed boats powered by large fans, known as airboats, searched the area with flashlights throughout the night Sunday.

The muck, described as similar to quicksand, was more than 5 feet deep and lay under waist-deep water. Divers searched the murky

waters again on Sunday, hoping to find the jet's flight data and voice recorders to provide clues to the crash.

The largest piece of wreckage recovered from the site was the size of a baseball cap, Mr. Fernández said.

The Everglades covers more than 2,000 square miles (5,200 square kilometers) of South Florida, and is a wetlands home to alligators, wading birds, the endangered Florida panther and manatees.

Federal officials, meanwhile, sought to reassure the public that low-cost carriers like ValuJet are safe.

"Yes, the airline is safe," the federal aviation administrator, David R. Hinson, said Sunday. "I would fly on it. It meets our standards."

Air safety officials refused to speculate on the cause of the crash. Robert Francis, vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, sought to play down the safety record of the 27-year-old aircraft.

"We don't have any more concerns about the DC-9 than any other aircraft," he said. (Reuters, AP, AP, WP)

INDIA: Power Plays

Continued from Page 1

take in what many Indians expect to be a period of political instability for the country.

"All the logic of the election verdict is that we will stay in the opposition," he said. "Our decision rests not in what we will do, but in what we will not do — and what we will not do is unite with the BJP," referring to the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Other senior Congress Party leaders cut through the opaqueness of Mr. Rao's statement to say that the party would support efforts to stop the Hindu nationalists of the Bharatiya Janata Party from coming to power by assembling a parliamentary majority from the fragmented election results, which left no party even close to a majority.

The Hindu nationalists and their allies, including the Bombay-based Shiv Sena party, finished a clear first in the election in the best result the Hindu nationalists have ever scored in India. As the bid to top them gathered pace, the Hindu nationalists and their allies became increasingly shrill.

On Saturday, the leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, sent a delegation of India's ceremonial president, Shankar Dayal Sharma, demanding that he appoint Mr. Vajpayee as prime minister and give him three weeks to assemble a parliamentary majority.

Mr. Sharma, a Cambridge-educated lawyer with a lifetime in the Congress Party, demurred, saying that no decision would be made before the election results are formally reported to him on Tuesday.

Mr. Vajpayee, who at 69 has spent 50 years in Hindu nationalist politics, voiced the frustrations of a political group that has gone from the wilderness of Indian politics — it won only two seats in the 1984 election, before beginning the ascent that won it 160



India's caretaker prime minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao, welcoming newly elected deputies of his Congress Party.

seats this time — to the threshold of power. "The verdict of the people is sought to be subverted by manipulation and maneuver," he said.

A political ally, George Fernandes of the Samata party, put it more bluntly, saying that the Congress Party had showed a "fascist mind-set" in deciding to block the nationalists from coming to power.

With only a handful of results still to come, the party lineup in the new Parliament was close to being settled. According to Indian state television, with 522 seats decided in the 545-seat lower house, the Hindu nationalists and their allies will have 186 seats, the Congress Party and its allies 138 seats, and the center-left coalition known as the National Front-Left Front 113 seats. The balance of power rested with a group of five regional parties, with 66 seats, and other splinter parties and 19 seats.

Another 15 seats are still

being counted. Six others will come from voting in the Muslim-majority state of Jammu and Kashmir that concludes on May 30, and two seats will go on the nomination of the new government to members of India's Anglo-Indian community. The new Parliament is expected to be called into session by early June, with a confidence vote in the new government its first priority.

The latest results showed that one of the winners was Phoolan Devi, a 36-year-old woman known in India as the "bandit queen" for her past as a member of an outlaw gang that is alleged to have spent years killing and plundering in the hinterland of the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. Miss Devi, under indictment in the 1981 murders of 20 villagers, was among the beneficiaries of a strong showing by two lower-caste parties that took 22 of 85 seats in Uttar Pradesh, against 52 seats for the Bharatiya Janata Party.

TAXIS: Costly Dream

Continued from Page 1

the right, granted by the city, to operate a taxi. Medallions were available during the Depression for \$10 each, but the city stopped issuing them in 1937, freezing the supply at 11,787.

Over the years, those medallions were actively bought and sold, and the steady income taxi driving offered, combined with the relative scarcity of medallions, helped drive the price steeply upward.

Even skeptics conceded that the Taxi and Limousine Commission's sale of 53 medallions for owner-drivers, and 80 others for taxi fleets, was a success. Doubters had said that expanding the number of yellow cabs in the city for the first time since 1937 would lower the value of the medallions.

But the sale drew slightly higher prices than the commission had predicted, earning \$26 million for the city.

The city plans to hold two more sales over the next two years, selling a total of 400 new medallions. Last year, when Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani proposed the sale of new medallions after a 59-year lull, it was to help close a city budget deficit. But many drivers saw deeper meaning in what happened Friday.

Taxi drivers who do not own medallions keep the fares they collect, but they have daunting expenses — at least \$30,000 a year for a full-time driver, and often more than \$40,000. Most drivers must lease medallions by the day or week, and they must pay for gasoline.

Fleets generally provide drivers both a medallion and a car, but many medallion owners make the drivers supply the cars and insure them. The most recent taxi commission study of the industry's economics, conducted in 1993, before the latest fare increase, estimated that the average driver netted \$19,000 a year.

Drivers who buy medallions almost always take out 10-year loans from taxi industry credit unions, using the medallion as collateral. For the lenders, who often double as medallion brokers, there is little risk. They lend money at interest rates of 8.5 percent or more, and if a driver defaults on a loan, they can seize the medallion and sell it to a hungry market, usually at a substantial profit.

ARMS: Illicit Shipments to Balkans Pervasive

Continued from Page 1

were backed by forces and supplies from neighboring Serbia.

During a visit by President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia to Tehran at the end of October 1992, Bosnian sources said, an agreement was worked out to open a weapons supply route to the Muslim-led government in Sarajevo through Croatia.

Croatia, which normalized relations with Iran on April 18, 1992, sent a Muslim Croat, Osman Mufic, to be its first ambassador. It was Mr. Mufic, officials said, who worked out the details of the weapons pipeline along with Omer Behmen, Bosnia's ambassador to Iran, and Hasan Cengic, a Bosnian Muslim arms dealer who now serves as Bosnia's deputy minister of defense.

For a while, Mr. Cengic actually based himself in Tehran as he traveled the Middle East and Asia searching for other contributions to Bosnia's vulnerable army, which was being rolled back on almost every battle front by the formidably armed Bosnian Serbs.

Bosnian officials said that despite the Tehran agreement, cooperation with the Croatian government was spotty from the beginning. Haris Silajdzic, Bosnia's former prime minister and a key player in the weapons negotiations, recalled one incident in February 1993 when a convoy carrying thousands of Milan antitank rockets,

destined for outgunned Muslim troops in eastern Bosnia, was confiscated by Croat militia, thereby ending in his mind any chances for the Muslims to push back the Serb land grab in that part of the country.

A Bosnian government source said those weapons came from Malaysia and were purchased with money from Brunei.

Cooperation between the two sides deteriorated further in 1993, when Bosnian Croats launched their own war against the Sarajevo government and its mostly Muslim army, sparking Bosnia's second war. Still, however, weapons flowed into the region from Islamic countries, and some found their way to the Muslims.

A State Department spokesman said that throughout this time the administration was aware that

LEBANON: Renewed Clashes

Continued from Page 1

might actually take up its responsibilities.

According to Israeli radio, Hezbollah fired rockets and mortars against Israeli positions in southern Lebanon Sunday morning, wounding five Israelis. (Last week, the guerrillas also ambushed soldiers of the South Lebanese Army, a Christian militia maintained by Israel, killing one soldier.)

Israel replied with artillery and air attacks, but there were no indications whether any guerrillas were hit. Under the understandings, Israel is free to return fire if attacked, though not into civilian villages.

There was no immediate indication of whether Israel intended to step up its return fire, but it was evident that clashes would continue.

Israel and Hezbollah have been fighting since the Israeli ended their invasion of Lebanon 11 years ago.

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INTERNATIONAL

Yeltsin Pursuing Yavlinsky Alliance

He Says Split in Democrats Will Let the Communists Win

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — President Boris N. Yeltsin continued to seek an alliance with the reformist candidate Grigori A. Yavlinsky over the weekend, saying that splits among advocates of democracy and reform could only help return the Communist Party to power.

Earlier last week, Mr. Yavlinsky had held out the possibility that he would support Mr. Yeltsin in the June 16 elections if the president moved quickly to end the war in Chechnya, to replace his domestic-policy advisers and to shift direction of economic reform.

After the two men met at the Kremlin, Mr. Yavlinsky hinted Mr. Yeltsin had tried to discuss a deal in which Mr. Yavlinsky would be made prime minister if he threw his support behind Mr. Yeltsin.

Campaigning Saturday in the Volga River city of Astrakhan, Mr. Yeltsin seemed to suggest that a deal with Mr. Yavlinsky had been negotiated. When a voter asked him about Mr. Yavlinsky, Mr. Yeltsin replied: "We have met, and we are uniting."

Later, according to the Interfax news service, Mr. Yeltsin told supporters in Astrakhan: "It will be very difficult for us to achieve success if the present discord continues to plague the democratic camp. There are too many ambitions and sometimes a mutual lack of understanding in it."

Using a sports analogy, Mr. Yeltsin said the only difference between him and the other reform candidates was their "weight class." Mr. Yavlinsky, a 44-year-old economist who heads a bloc in Parliament, has never held an administrative post in government.

But he is thought likely to win several million votes that could be crucial to Mr. Yeltsin, who is lagging behind the Communist candidate, Gennadi Zyuganov.

Mr. Yeltsin's comment seemed to catch Mr. Yavlinsky off guard. The president's statement "that we have united does not correspond with reality," he told Russia's independent television network, reiterating that his discussion with Mr.

Yeltsin was about policy matters — the Chechen war, economic and social programs, army reform, "as well as broad and significant personnel replacements."

"We did not talk about duties," he said. "We did not talk about my withdrawing my candidacy."

But Mr. Yeltsin said cooperation with Mr. Yavlinsky and two other candidates — Alexander Lebed, a former general, and Svyatoslav Fyodorov, an eye surgeon — would not require that they quit. "It does not necessarily mean they should step down," he said.

The mayor of St. Petersburg, Anatoli Sobchak, who was an early leader in the reform movement, told reporters that Mr. Yavlinsky should "forget his own political ambitions" and back Mr. Yeltsin.

In a direct appeal to Mr. Yavlinsky, he added: "You are young yet, and I will be ready to support you in the next presidential election," Interfax reported.

Mr. Yeltsin brushed aside an invitation from Mr. Zyuganov for televised debates before the June 16 election.

"I was a Communist for 30 years and had so much of that demagoguery that today, with my democratic views, I cannot bear this demagoguery any more," Mr. Yeltsin said in an interview with Interfax and the Russian Tass news agency.

"For this reason, I don't need the debate with Zyuganov," he said. "I stick to my beliefs, while he wants to drag the country backward. He wants a Communist comeback, which is something that will never happen."

Mr. Yeltsin said he did not have time to debate the other 10 candidates on the ballot.

EU Presses Reform

The European Union, privately haunted by the specter of Mr. Yeltsin's losing the election, will outline plans on Monday for helping Moscow stay the course of reform, Reuters reported from Brussels.

Foreign ministers from the 15-nation bloc will approve a long-awaited "action plan" for Russia, designed to promote economic liberalization and democracy.



Boris N. Yeltsin gesturing as his campaign tour passed through Astrakhan.

Russian Planes Hit Chechen Town

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — Russian aircraft have launched attacks on Chechen rebels around the former Soviet missile base at Bamut and a nearby village, Interfax news agency quoted local officials as saying Sunday.

The officials said the bombardment of Bamut, where rebels held out for weeks against army assaults in March, began Saturday. On Sunday guerrillas attacked a military column in the area, wounding several Russian servicemen.

"Federal aviation has begun to carry out strikes against guerrilla positions in the area of the hill town of Bamut and Stari-Achkoi," Interfax said, quoting officials in the main town of the district, Achkhoy-Martan.

Interfax also reported that a regional government leader was seriously injured and his driver killed Sunday when his car hit a mine near Chervlennaya, northeast of the Chechen capital Grozny.

It was not clear if Anatoli Storozhenko, head of the Moscow-backed Shelkovskaya regional government, was the intended target

of the attack, Interfax said, citing Chechnya's pro-Russian Interior Ministry.

In another development, Russian helicopter gunships began a new bombardment late Saturday of the southern Chechen town of Urus-Martan, 30 kilometers from Grozny, Interfax reported.

It said one person was injured in the attack, which damaged several buildings. "The inhabitants are becoming afraid and are taking their children out of the town," said a pro-Moscow local government official.

It was the third attack on Urus-Martan in a week. Russian troops say they are targeting a separatist position inside the town. Six people have died and 28 have been injured in the bombardments.

Urus-Martan, a town of about 40,000 people, was an independence stronghold before the war but has not opposed Russian troops or the pro-Moscow authorities during the conflict.

Chechnya's Moscow-backed Parliament said Sunday that legislative elections in the republic would be June 16. (Reuters, AFP)

Unruffled South Africa

De Klerk Walkout 'All For the Best'

By Suzanne Daley
New York Times Service

JOHANNESBURG — Whether South Africa was celebrating a new Constitution or a world rugby victory, F. W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela always seemed to find each other in the crowd. They would walk together, clapping hands, offering the world that warm picture of black and white leaders at work together.

But behind the scenes, they didn't like each other very much. There have been shouting matches — one of them overheard in a parking lot — and potshots taken in statements to the press.

Still, the fears that were at work when Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk first agreed to govern together have faded more rapidly than anyone would have thought.

The country still faces enormous problems, but most whites do not seem so

Mining industry executives, for instance, were reported to be extremely angry that the cabinet minister overseeing their sector was a National Party official. The industry wanted someone with "clout," as one executive put it.

After surveying several business groups, Mr. Friedman said, it is clear to him that none of them are remotely worried about the National Party's departure.

"They have other concerns, the kind that businesses have," he said. "There was no sign of alarm because they don't have the National Party anymore."

But the division could set off some short-term problems for South Africa. It could have a negative effect on the way foreigners view the country, and on the value of the rand, which has declined since Mr. de Klerk's announcement.

The timing of the split — the day after Parliament overwhelmingly adopted a new Constitution — could also detract from the way in which the landscape is viewed, particularly among whites.

And the departure of the National Party could heighten tensions between the ANC and the third member in the coalition, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, which may try to expand its role, further straining its already difficult relationship with Mr. Mandela's party.

But many experts said that the coalition had served its purpose and that it was time for the country to have an opposition party.

"Everybody has gotten used to the ANC," said Tom Lodge, a professor of political science at the University of the Witwatersrand, in Johannesburg. "It just doesn't look like an ogre anymore."

The National Party, however, now faces the difficult task of finding a place for itself in the new order. When it leaves the government on June 30, it will be the first time in 48 years that it has not been part of the government.

The last two years have left the party in some disarray. Wide disagreement about what course to set for the future seemed particularly evident in recent days.

With much fanfare, Mr. de Klerk announced in February that he wanted to remake the party to promote "core values" and to appeal to both blacks and whites. But in the final weeks of negotiations over the Constitution, he was locked in a very public battle over whether the document should establish the right to single-language schools — a measure that most blacks saw as an attempt by Afrikaans-speakers to keep blacks out of whites' schools.

Mr. de Klerk says he will build the National Party back into the country's largest party. But that is unlikely.

Algeria Chief Outlines Constitutional Reform

The Associated Press

ALGIERS — President Liamine Zeroual outlined constitutional reform proposals Sunday that would end the separation between religion and politics, guarantee economic freedom and potentially encourage political pluralism.

The changes were presented in a 22-page memorandum to political parties, organizations and individuals who participated in a recent series of talks with the president geared to ending Algeria's protracted crisis.

Since the military's cancellation of 1992 elections which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front was favored to win, more than 40,000 people have died in a revolt by armed extremists seeking to overthrow the government and establish an Islamic state.

Both the economy and such civil liberties as freedom of the press have suffered as a result of the conflict, and Mr. Zeroual, democratically elected last November, is under pressure to improve conditions.

The recent talks, however, did not include the Islamic Salvation Front, without whom many political observers think any real solution to the crisis is unlikely.

The constitutional changes proposed include limiting the presidential mandate to a maximum of two terms, naming a state supreme court and a senate, and excluding explicit religious and ethnic militancy from politics and political parties.

The memorandum also proposes revising laws on political parties and elections, reinforcing the stability of institutions and strengthening the executive branch.

It does not specify when legislative elections, promised for 1997, will be held, but

sets a timetable for participants in the recent talks to decide on dates.

Economic liberalization and free enterprise would be made constitutional principles, the memorandum said.

The participants in last month's talks have two weeks to reply to the president's proposals. None have so far reacted publicly.

One notable omission from the president's memorandum was any mention of the army, traditionally Algeria's main power broker, a role contested by many opposition figures.

Car Bomb Kills 3

A car bomb which exploded in the Algerian garrison town of Blida killed three people and wounded 70 following a gun battle, Reuters reported, quoting a dispatch from the independent newspaper Watan on Sunday.

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Sensible China Policy

Every year about this time, a donnybrook erupts in Washington over America's relations with China. The fight was shaping up as particularly intense this election year, but, thanks to an unexpected congruence of views between Bill Clinton and Bob Dole, this year's action may help produce a sensible China policy.

The immediate subject of debate is whether normal trade privileges should be extended to China for another year. But the broader issue is how Washington ought to manage the full range of relations with Beijing.

China, already the world's most populous nation, is rapidly developing into a commercial and military power. Washington urgently needs a more coherent and consistent policy to encourage responsible behavior by China and to check reckless conduct like the recent Chinese effort to intimidate Taiwan.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Dole seem to agree that the denial of normal trade privileges is not the way to influence Chinese behavior on a host of diplomatic, arms control, human rights and commercial issues. They are right. Many Republicans and Democrats in Congress believe that a wholesale spike in tariffs would moderate China's conduct, but a more nuanced and productive approach now seems workable. It would match specific Chinese misconduct with strong, targeted sanctions.

The Clinton administration has been moving in this direction after a long period of accepting in near silence China's misdeeds and violations of international agreements. The trade representative's office is now preparing a list of \$3 billion in tariff penalties that will be imposed unless China honors its commitment to stop the piracy of computer software, music and movies.

Regrettably, the State Department on Friday sidestepped Beijing's sale of nuclear weapons technology to

Pakistan. Instead of imposing penalties against the Chinese companies that made the sale, the administration accepted assurances from the Chinese government that it was unaware of the transaction and would more rigorously enforce restrictions on the export of nuclear technology.

Mr. Dole, while caustically dismissive of Mr. Clinton's handling of international affairs, outlined a China strategy of his own last week that was not a great deal different from the administration's. He would renew normal trade relations, while penalizing Beijing for specific misconduct.

It is essential to find the right balance between advancing American economic interests and using trade sanctions to influence Chinese behavior. Trade with China earns handsome profits for American companies and sustains jobs in better-paid export industries. But it also strengthens a regime that abuses the rights of its people, bullies its neighbors and undermines America's arms control policies by selling missile and nuclear weapons components to other states. While China's trade with the United States undoubtedly encourages its economic development and the growth of private industries, there is little evidence that trade is fostering political liberalization there.

Although America has the world's largest economy and provides most of China's hard-currency trading surplus, Washington's leverage is limited when it acts by itself. It should not have to do so. Containing nuclear weapons, protecting intellectual property and defending human rights are international interests. America alone should not have to bear the costs. But when international action is not possible, Washington has no choice but to apply tough but selective American sanctions.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Get Allies on Board

President Bill Clinton bans all trade and investment with Iran: a French oil company promptly picks up a \$600 million contract that Conoco is forced to abandon. The United States stands up to China over its bullying of Taiwan: Europe's Airbus Industrie merrily signs a big-bucks deal with Beijing, leaving Boeing to twist slowly in the wind. These and other similar cases are enough to set an American's blood to boil.

Too often, it seems, U.S. allies are content to allow the United States to take the lead in disciplining the world's rogue states. If the United States manages to enforce fair trading rules or discourage the spread of nuclear weapons, the allies benefit as much as America in the long run. In the meantime, by not tuning at U.S. harshness, they sweep up the commercial contracts that U.S. firms lose, thus benefiting in the short run, too.

Nowhere does the blood boil higher than in Congress, and anger there is now reflected in legislation designed to punish foreign companies that invest in the oil industries of Libya or Iran. European officials have responded furiously to the proposed law, which the Clinton administration has endorsed. "There will be a price to be paid," one British bureaucrat warned.

It should be noted that the proposed legislation is hardly as punitive or sweeping as it has sometimes been portrayed. The version approved by the House Committee on International Relations, for example, requires the president to impose sanctions on offending companies but gives him enough leeway to avoid seriously harming the firms in most cases if he so chooses.

Nonetheless, there is something troubling in the unilateralism of these

bills. During the Cold War, the United States and its allies jointly agreed not to furnish certain high-tech items to the Soviet Union; sanctions for firms which then broke the rules were understandable and legitimate. Now the United States is seeking to punish firms that have broken no international law or treaty.

Moreover, the question of when to isolate and when to engage a nation that behaves badly is never easy. The United States forbids all trade and investment with Iran, but not with Syria, although both are accused of sponsoring terrorism. It seeks to isolate Libya while encouraging contacts with North Korea, although North Korea, too, stands accused of seeking nuclear weapons and harboring terrorists.

We cite these cases not to suggest that the United States has made such choices haphazardly, but to point out that the choices are not always obvious. To force U.S. policy on other countries, rather than persuade them diplomatically, in most cases reflects an arrogance warranted neither by the complexity of the problem nor by the record of U.S. consistency in applying sanctions.

Having said that, we believe that the European and Japanese owe more than complaints about potential U.S. bullying. Germany's foreign minister last week acknowledged that his country shares the U.S. assessment of Iran as a sponsor of terrorism. Yet since America cut off all trade and investment one year ago, hoping to lead by example, U.S. allies have neither followed suit nor shown much success in moderating Iran's behavior through their commercial engagement. The burden is now on them to join with the United States or come up with a better way.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

South Africa's Constitution

With the adoption of South Africa's new constitution, officially sanctioned legal equality now exists for all citizens, regardless of race. This marks the long-dreamed-of peaceful transition from a centuries-old segregated state to a multicultural democracy.

The achievement was made through the collective will of a people with a strong sense of self-preservation. But without the vision, leadership and persistence of bigger-than-life leaders such as Nelson Mandela, the goal could not have been reached. Credit also goes to Frederik de Klerk, whose daring bet

on a better future significantly advanced the dismantling of apartheid.

A bill of rights appears to address every possible threat of abuse from on high. Says Deputy President Thabo Mbeki: "Whatever the setbacks of the moment, nothing can stop us now." We agree. The new constitution, relegating the evils of apartheid to the past, is indeed grounds for celebration. But South Africans must now build their democracy, day by day.

The constitution is a remarkable document, but still just a piece of paper unless it has the commitment of South Africa's people.

—Los Angeles Times.

Why a Victory for Likud Would Be a Disaster

By Thomas L. Friedman

TEL AVIV — The campaign has opened for the most fateful election in Israel's history. With three weeks to go, the race between Labor's Shimon Peres and the Likud's Bibi Netanyahu is so close that even Herzl Lifshitz, one of Israel's leading astrologers, declared: "Tell me I'm a rotten astrologer, but what can I tell you. I haven't got a clue what's going to happen. I've never had this before. I don't see either Peres or Bibi as prime minister."

Well, either Mr. Peres or Mr. Netanyahu will be Israel's next prime minister. And while you can't predict which, you can predict the political consequences of either man's victory.

The reason this election is so fateful is not because Israelis are choosing between starkly different visions for the future. They are choosing between two starkly different visions of the present.

For the first time, Israel has Palestinian partners for peace. It has a broad peace process unfolding, right now, with the Arab world. This is it. This is peace, with all its wars and rewards. And because it has all happened since the last Israeli election, this is the first time Israelis will get to vote on it, and

how they vote will have real consequences on the ground in real time.

That is why most of the election commercials involve Mr. Peres and Mr. Netanyahu trying to define the present, not the future. Likud flashes scenes of recent bus bombings, while Mr. Netanyahu somberly reminds Israelis that they must fear walking the streets. The present is a nightmare, suggests Mr. Netanyahu, and I will make it right.

Mr. Peres's commercials show booming Israeli factories, smiling Israeli youth traveling the world and Israeli yuppies driving a yellow convertible, all thanks to economic growth brought on by peace. The present is good, Mr. Peres says, so let me finish the process that got us here.

What will tip the voting? There are many little issues, but I believe the key to this election is the fact, as the veteran Israeli pollster Hanech Smith puts it, "that 60 percent of Israelis consistently answer 'yes' when asked whether they want the peace process begun by Yitzhak Rabin to continue."

From the very first handshake there has been an Israeli silent majority for this process, sometimes grudging, sometimes wary, but always present, and that explains how the peace has come so far, despite the terrorism.

With each terrorist incident that majority dips, but then it always bounces back, says Mr. Smith.

That is why the real electoral wild card is whether some terrorist incident occurs in the next three weeks. Without one, Mr. Peres, who now leads by 5 percentage points, will be hard to beat. With one, Mr. Netanyahu will be hard to beat. No wonder everyone here talks about "the bomb" and when it might go off. Israel Radio opened its broadcast the other day on a simple note that every listener understood: "Nothing has happened, yet."

Because Mr. Netanyahu's polls tell him that Israelis want there to be a peace process, he has tried to attract floating centrist votes by stressing that he will not abandon the Oslo peace accords.

He has downplayed his party's platform, which calls for expanding Jewish settlements, closing down Palestinian offices in Jerusalem, keeping all of

Jerusalem and the Golan Heights under Israeli rule and preventing a Palestinian state in the West Bank. Of course all those things, if implemented, would destroy the peace.

That is why I believe that Mr. Netanyahu's coalition can only hold up to election day. If he implements his party platform after that, he will find that he has no Palestinian partners, and he will blow up the peace process. If he doesn't implement his party platform, he will find he has few Likud partners, and he will blow up his own party.

Mr. Peres has things much easier. If he wins, everyone will know why. He will have a mandate to continue the peace process to its logical conclusion.

So let us not mince words. A Netanyahu victory, at this time when so much has been achieved between Israel and the Palestinians but so much still needs to be done, would be a disaster.

His party will not let him push the peace process forward, and the Israeli silent majority will not let him unravel it entirely. So the result will be paralysis, a dangerous paralysis, and you don't need an astrologer to see that.

The New York Times.

The Two Vaclavs' Czechs Have No Time for Post-Communism

By Jim Hoagland

PRAGUE — Reconstituted Communist parties have achieved electoral victories in Poland and Hungary and may soon gain power in Russia, but in the Czech Republic the post-Communist left is about to slam into a brick wall. The Czechs want nothing to do with Eastern Europe's new political fashion of advancing into the past.

The very suggestion by foreigners that the Czechs might belong to a zone of "post-communism" falls on Czech ears as an insult. It implies that their society owes something to the four decades of ideological oppression they were forced to endure. The Czechs labor to make a complete break with the recent past — to rub out all traces, including linguistic ones, of a historical aberration.

This has been not the case in Poland, where voters ousted Lech Walesa from the presidency in November; nor in Hungary, Lithuania, Slovakia, Serbia and other ex-satellites where, as the historian Timothy Garton Ash puts it, "parties that

inherited nationwide organizations, offices, personnel and funds" from the old Communist party-state have used that legacy to come back to power.

The 10 million Czechs, who take pride in standing apart from their neighbors, seem to have a different future in mind.

Czechs vote on May 31 for a new Parliament. The polls show that they will re-elect the conservative coalition of ardent capitalists led by the country's "other Vaclav." Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus is poised to accomplish what the heroes of Solidarity could not do in Poland: hold on to power in a second election.

Mr. Klaus's laissez-faire policies are associated with the country's full employment, rising foreign investment and other strong economic indicators unmatched elsewhere in the ex-Soviet empire. His industry and trade minister, Vladimir Dlouhy, told me the economy is set to grow by 5 percent in 1996.

"Klaus is not interested in parts of the government that spend money, like the Foreign Ministry and the armed forces," says one Prague observer. "He wishes they would go away. His interests are in ministries that make money, like trade and industry."

That is an exaggeration, but not by much. And it reflects the vivid, at times bitter rivalry that has grown up between the two Vaclavs. Mr. Klaus, a gruff and dedicated contrarian, stands in President Vaclav Havel's shadow in world recognition. But at home it is the president who stands in the constitutionally empowered prime minister's shadow.

Mr. Klaus wields power, ruthlessness and complete, while Mr. Havel makes elegant and moving speeches on ethics, foreign policy and defense. (Mr. Havel's term, which runs for two more years, will not be affected by the May 31 ballot.)

In her insightful book "The

Haunted Land," Tina Rosenberg points out that while Mr. Havel was constantly in trouble with the Communist authorities and often in jail, Mr. Klaus worked quietly in the State Bank, was frequently given visas to lecture abroad and avoided helping or even being seen with the dissidents.

Despite a carefully cultivated Thatcherite image in the West, his late-blooming anti-communism is that of a pragmatist rather than that of a true-believing ideologue. He has not tackled the explosive issue of rent control in Prague. He has kept in place an impressive social safety net, including state health care. He is, in short, an effective coalition politician, an accusation never leveled at Mr. Walesa.

Mr. Klaus has benefited enormously from a decision that was not his: the 1993 vote by the Slovaks to leave Czechoslovakia, taking with them the deepening economic and political problems that have riveted a post-communist regime into place in Bratislava.

The Slovak regime depends on an electorate that resembles those that turned against Mr. Walesa and the Hungarian conservatives and may yet overthrow Boris Yeltsin: a mix of old Marxists, the unemployed, factory workers who are not getting paid, pensioners who cannot cope without price controls, and others hurt by the transition to a market economy.

The Czech Communist Party is expected to draw about 10 percent of the vote on May 31. The party was a strong force in pre-World War II Czechoslovakia, a free-market democracy. That heritage is as important as the current prosperity in explaining why the Czechs have not fallen into the post-Communist trap.

They have decided that they live in a normal country, not in a conspiracy of history or an ideological crusade. They leapfrogged post-communism, and earned the right not to be lumped together with neighbors too burdened to jump that high.

The Washington Post.

Strengthening the Major Sponsors of International Terrorism

By A. M. Rosenthal

NEW YORK — The United States is the ultimate target of the nations that sponsor international terrorism. Yet it has been strengthening the three countries that are the major practitioners and exporters of international terrorism.

This would seem an important development in world affairs. Yet neither the public, the press nor the foreign affairs professionals appear even aware of the fact that after all the anti-terrorist talk, the United States is doing at least as much to help three key terrorist nations as to damage them. In ascending order: Syria, Iran, China.

The reason for the lack of

attention is in how the United States got to this point. It was not through a coherent, planned foreign policy. That might have been debated, at least a little, while it was being conceived or carried out. It was not an overall conspiracy. Journalistic and bureaucratic whistles might have blown. But the administration did it step by step, each time a different way.

On Syria, the United States must share credit with Israel for a casebook example of helping a terrorist nation by shutting up. The Israelis came under world attack for the harshness of

their bombing in Lebanon. Israeli bombing was too devastating even for the stomachs of foreigners like myself who felt that Israel had to stop Hezbollah rocketing its villages. The United States was denounced for standing by Israel.

But both countries bit their tongues about an essential truth: Syria's role in lighting the Lebanon fire again.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres told the world that there were two military commands in Lebanon, the Hezbollah's and the Lebanese government's. Not so: Israel and the United States

knew that the rocketing of Israeli villages from Lebanon could not have taken place without the real military command in Lebanon — the Syrian occupation forces.

Both countries also zippered themselves silent about the Palestinian terrorist camps in Syria. Mr. Peres would have found it difficult to remind Israel of the complicity and intentions of the Syria he was courting and offering the Golan Heights to.

The United States also committed public silence about Syrian terrorism. President Hafez Assad, Syria's terrorist in chief, emerged stronger than ever.

Iran — that was expediency, also called too smart by half. The United States agreed last year to look away while Iran shipped weapons through Croatia to the Bosnian Muslims.

This was at the time when the United States was urging allies to help contain Iran militarily and politically. It was a surreptitious decision behind the backs of Congress, the United Nations and European allies that had troops in Bosnia.

Oh, and one thing more: It helped Iran create a fundamentalist political and intelligence base in Bosnia. Presumably now Washington will ask U.S. allies to contain the new Iranian presence in Europe to the Balkans.

China — the tough complex did it. Communist China began international terrorism a half-century ago with the genocidal occupation of Tibet. Now its

power has exploded through the courtesy of foreign trade. For trade, the United States has traded its pledge to connect tariffs and human rights. Yearly it pours scores of billions of dollars into China, directly swelling the treasuries of the armed forces that carry out terrorism at home and abroad.

China uses that power to sell military nuclear technology to Pakistan, peddle missiles to assorted dictators, begin stripping freedom from Hong Kong a year before the official Communist takeover. And in March it sent missiles into both the Strait of Taiwan and the political face of the United States — as carefully calibrated and dangerous an act of international terrorism as possible without actually going to war.

But hold, America has had enough. It talks of limiting its help to the world's premier terrorist regime by fining Beijing for violating some American patents. That will show them.

How did the administration, an intelligent group, get here? By having more faith in expediency and opportunism than in constancy, and by shifting from democratic idealism to realpolitik and international economic opportunism. For democracies, that is the historic road to empowering their enemies.

Surely, helping strengthen terrorist nations was not the intent of the president or his advisers. But it worked out that way, which is what counts.

The New York Times.

The Republican Mood Is Grim

By Maureen Dowd

WASHINGTON — Republicans mutter about Bob Dole being unelectable. Bob Dole losing so badly he wrecks the party, and Bob Dole running a confoundingly bad campaign. That is all on the record. So you can imagine how gruesome it gets when big shots whisper what they really think.

"It's over," says one. "We have to focus on the House and Senate."

"Can you picture Bob Dole's inauguration?" asks another. Haley Barbour is trying to impose loyalty, but the party's monolithic front of the '80s has dissolved into free-lancing — moderate pessimists versus radical pessimists, pro-choice pessimists versus no-choice pessimists.

As Mr. Dole displays his parliamentary wizardry devising ingenious forms of gridlock, his party is dumbfounded, hung over from their Contract high. Bob Dole accuses Bill Clinton of weak leadership, while his own campaign grasps at meaningless little causes like the gas tax.

"There's anarchy in the house because there's no parent at the table," moans a Bush White House veteran. Newt Gingrich says Mr. Dole is so emotionally reserved

that he finds selling himself "almost undignified."

Just as Bill Clinton only seems able to govern by running, so Bob Dole only seems able to run by governing. Or trying to govern. These days, his control of the Senate is distracted by his grander dreams.

The prospect of an electoral hanging concentrates President Clinton's mind, but it strangely diffuses Senator Dole's. The majority leader is fluent in the arcane language of cloture and second-degree amendments, but he has yet to answer the basic question: What do you believe? (The question for Mr. Clinton, of course, is: Is there anything you don't believe?)

The incompetence that characterized Mr. Clinton's style of government has vanished before the competence that characterizes Mr. Clinton's style of politics. And the precise opposite is true of Mr. Dole.

Time magazine described a call between Mr. Dole and Republican fund-raisers. "Dole plunged into legislative proposals and subclauses. No good, said the donor. What was he for? A long and pained silence followed."

The moneybags had not stumbled upon a tactical problem, but a cognitive one. After four national campaigns, Mr. Dole still does not know.

When Mr. Dole asked voters which candidate they would trust to watch their children, it backfired. Perhaps fearing that Mr. Dole would force the kiddies to look at the Sunday talk

shows, voters told The Washington Post that they preferred the president as guardian, 56 percent to 20 percent.

When Mr. Clinton followed up by asking, if you ordered pizza, "Who would you trust to choose the topping?" a CNN poll pronounced the president the winner by a slim margin. (Coward, no doubt, the certainty that the president would order a large with everything.)

Dick Morris says he wants Mr. Clinton to run as pope, rather than president, promoting school uniforms and discouraging teenage pregnancy and domestic violence and kids' smoking or watching naughty TV.

Republicans know that Mr. Clinton's moral pedestal might be a little shaky, but they are too disorganized to grab the high ground. "If we don't seize on same-sex marriages, then we don't deserve to win," says the former Bush aide. "Partial-birth abortions were a missed opportunity. We could have made infanticide a household word."

On Friday, Mr. Dole and advisers were still fretting over what to say for a Saturday speech billed as a major address on crime. The Republicans, unclear on crime!

They seem eager to get through this Last Hurrah and move on to John Kasich and the next generation.

The Protean president has changed so much he now seems to represent change, leaving Bob Dole in the George Bush role of tired incumbent.

The New York Times.

Correction

An editing error in this space on Friday (in "Kohl Sets Out on a Middle Way," by Guido Brunner) garbled the year in which Germany's next general election is due. It is of course 1998.

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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.
Tel.: (1) 41 43 93 00, Fax: (1) 41 43 92 10; Adv.: (1) 41 43 92 12; E-Mail: ht@iht.com
Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson, 5 Convent Road, Singapore 0511. Tel: (65) 472-7799, Fax: (65) 274-2334
Mng. Dir. Asia: Ruff D. Kronschild, 50 Gloucester Rd., Hong Kong. Tel: 852-2922-1888, Fax: 852-2922-1190
Gen. Mng. Germany: T. Schiller, Friedrichstr. 15, 10117 Frankfurt 1, Tel: (49) 72 67 33, Fax: (49) 72 73 10
Pres. U.S. Market: C. Moore, 150 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022, Tel: (212) 752-3864, Fax: (212) 752-4703
U.S. Advertising Office: 61 Long Ave., London W22, Tel: (171) 436-4892, Fax: (171) 240-2554
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SHORT COVER

Investor Group Buys Prodigy

NEW YORK (AP) — A group of investors announced Sunday the acquisition of Prodigy Services Co., the troubled commercial on-line service, from its owners, International Business Machines Corp. and Sears, Roebuck & Co. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The takeover was led by International Wireless Inc., a global telecommunications company, and Prodigy management, including Ed Bennett, president and chief executive. Mr. Bennett will continue to serve in those positions under the new agreement. The deal is subject to regulatory approval.

Mr. Bennett and other Prodigy managers last month hired investment advisers to try to launch a buyout and possibly take Prodigy public. The service needs to invest heavily in new systems and marketing to keep pace with its rivals, America Online Inc. and CompuServe Inc.

Prodigy was the second-largest on-line service in early 1995 with about 1.25 million subscribers, while CompuServe had 2 million and America Online 1 million. America Online, through aggressive marketing, has grown to 5 million subscribers and CompuServe 4 million, while Prodigy's subscriber base has stagnated.

German Leaders Warn on EMU

NETTETAL, Germany (Reuters) — German regional state ministers said Sunday Germany might fail to qualify for European currency union in 1999 if its tax revenue shortfall in 1997 is as big as Bonn fears it will be.

Bonn estimates that this year the tax revenue shortfall will be 26.5 billion Deutsche marks (\$17.48 billion) and 71.5 billion DM in 1997, well below the projected figures of May 1995.

Comparator Set to Resume Trading

NEW YORK (NYT) — Trading was expected to resume Monday in shares of Comparator Systems Corp., which has acknowledged under pressure from the Nasdaq stock market that some of its largest assets are of dubious value and that it has not arranged the funding needed to market its latest product.

Comparator, which is listed on Nasdaq's small cap market, had zoomed to \$1.75 a share from 3 cents. The new price values the company at more than \$1 billion. It makes equipment to recognize fingerprints but has had limited sales and no profits in its 18 years of existence.

Comparator's rise in price, on volume of hundreds of millions of shares, raised suspicions of market manipulation and caught the attention of the exchange, which halted trading Thursday and asked the company to clarify some issues.

10 Russian Banks Lose Licenses

MOSCOW (Bloomberg) — The Russian central bank said Sunday it had revoked the licenses of 10 commercial banks as of Wednesday.

The 10 banks violated federal law and banking regulations, had unsatisfactory financial status and failed to fulfill obligations to depositors and creditors, the central bank said.

The newest closures bring to 62 the number of banks shut so far this year. Balances have been falling before the presidential election next month, top bankers said, as companies withdraw funds to pay overdue wages.

Strike Ends at Chile Copper Mine

CHUQUICAMATA, Chile (Reuters) — Strikers at the Chuquicamata copper mine are returning to work, Nelson Pizarro, the mine's general manager, said, but Codelco will almost certainly have to make minor copper purchases to meet contract obligations.

After resuming production of concentrates Sunday, the mine will produce the first cathodes after 72 hours and the first electrocathodes probably by Tuesday, Mr. Pizarro said.

Officials said Sunday that 65.7 percent of the miners voted to accept a 36-month contract from the state-owned company, ending a 10-day walkout.

Jobless Rate Falls in Spain

MADRID (Bloomberg) — Spain's unemployment rate fell in April to 14.85 percent, its lowest level since September 1992, from 15.3 percent in March, marking its third consecutive month of decline, the Labor Ministry said.

The Labor Ministry's statistics are based on unemployment insurance claims filed with the National Employment Institute. They differ widely with the jobless rate published by the National Statistics Institute, which said Spain's unemployment rate during the fourth quarter was 22.8 percent, the highest in the European Union.

Spain's new budget chief, Jose Barea, said the 200 billion pesetas (\$1.57 billion) in spending cuts approved Friday by the cabinet were necessary to achieve gross domestic product growth of 2.0 percent to 2.5 percent this year, according to a newspaper report. (Knight-Ridder)

Mesa Proxy Challenge Heats Up

Move by Dissident Shareholders Could Disrupt Recapitalization Pact

By David Barboza
New York Times Service

DALLAS — A group of dissident shareholders has told Mesa Inc. it will nominate seven candidates for election to the board, a move that could position the dissidents to gain control of the company.

Dennis R. Washington, the Montana investor and a member of the dissident group that includes a former Mesa executive, David Batchelder, provided the notice in a filing Friday with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The filing complies with Mesa's bylaws, which require shareholders to notify the company of nominations 80 days before an annual shareholders meeting. Mesa has scheduled its annual meeting for July 30.

While the dissident shareholders, who have been trying to wrest control of the oil and gas production company for several months from T. Boone Pickens, Mesa's chief executive, have made no formal statement of their intent, some think Friday's filing was yet

another small step toward disrupting the company that Mr. Pickens has led through a rocky last few years.

Some say it may also be an effort by the dissidents to undermine a pending agreement between Mesa and Richard Rainwater, who was granted preferential terms in a deal that could give the Fort Worth, Texas, investor a controlling interest in the company.

Under the deal, which must be approved by Mesa shareholders, Mr. Rainwater's investment company agreed to raise \$265 million in equity and arrange refinancing on \$1.1 billion in Mesa debt. In return, Mr. Rainwater will control between 32 percent and 63.6 percent of Mesa shares and gain two of seven board seats.

"It's not unexpected that the Batchelder-Washington group wouldn't roll over and play dead," said Art Smith, chief executive of John S. Herold, Inc., a petroleum research company.

Mr. Smith, who met last week with Mesa executives, said that the dissidents had not given up on their disruptive strategy and that they might vie

for control at the annual meeting. Of Mr. Washington's filing, he said: "He's basically saying, 'Don't go with the Rainwater group, go with us and we'll give you a better value.'"

But Jay Rosser, a Mesa spokesman, said the filing was simply an effort to comply with the company's bylaws in the event that the Rainwater deal was not approved. "It's a contingency filing," he said. "They just want to preserve the right if Rainwater is not approved, to be able to pursue board seats."

Mr. Rosser said that under a settlement agreement in September, the dissidents would be prohibited from soliciting or submitting proxies at the annual shareholders meeting.

Representatives of the dissident shareholders could not be reached for comment.

Mesa's board consists of eight members, including two loyal to the dissidents. If the Rainwater transaction is ratified in a special June meeting, the board will be reduced to seven, with Mr. Rainwater given the power to appoint a majority of four.

India Party Outlines Policy on Foreign Brands

Reuters

NEW DELHI — Bharatiya Janata Party, which has demanded a chance to form the next Indian government after its strong showing in elections, frowns on foreign brand names but said it would welcome them if they could create jobs and add value, a party ideologue said.

"We want to be a producer, not a market," Mohan Guruswamy, a member of the economic affairs committee, said over the weekend at the Hindu nationalist party's headquarters in New Delhi.

"They will create oligopolies here," he said of foreign brands. "We want them to earn profits, not just take it away."

With its allies, Bharatiya Janata emerged as the largest single group in the 545-seat Parliament, holding some 180

seats.

Mr. Guruswamy offered new details on the party's economic policies, whose main focus is bolstering Indian industry and not opening the domestic market to foreign competition until Indian companies can meet it.

But Bharatiya Janata says it welcomes foreign investment in such key sectors as infrastructure and high technology.

Foreign brands will be welcome if they are accompanied by large manufacturing capacities, Mr. Guruswamy said.

"They want you to be a cheap manufacturing base," he said of foreign companies. "We don't accept the view that what is good for the company is good for the country."

Bharatiya Janata favors following de-

velopment models set by South Korea and Japan, Mr. Guruswamy said, where the government works closely with domestic companies and the stress is on research and development.

"We will give some support to Indian manufacturers to promote brands," he said.

The party would prefer Indian brands for India-made tea, rather than Western names. Mr. Guruswamy said, and refrigerators made in India for export should carry Indian brand names, rather than Western tags, such as Whirlpool.

He added that a Bharatiya Janata government would urge foreign companies to lend money to Indian ones rather than buy into them because that would allow the government to retain some control.

Singapore Grows Above Forecasts

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SINGAPORE — The economy of Singapore is growing faster than the government forecast. Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said, and the government announced that it would open its telecommunications market seven years earlier than expected.

The economy expanded 10.7 percent in the first quarter of 1996 from the like quarter last year, Mr. Goh said Saturday. He also warned that such growth threatened social cohesion.

The growth rate over the whole year should top the government forecast of 7 percent to 8 percent, he said.

"The economic picture for the next 10 years is likely to be rosy, but potential problems lurk beneath the surface," Mr. Goh told the Singapore Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at their annual dinner.

"Despite enjoying steadily rising wages, some workers are feeling left behind in the economic race," he said.

Mr. Goh said Singapore faced unique problems.

"A whole generation of Singaporeans born after 1965 are now scaling the heights of their chosen professions," he said. "They are a generation who have known only growth and affluence. For them, a crisis means an economic growth rate of 5 percent."

Complaints about prices, especially for private property, have grown in Singapore.

"We are a mature economy now," Mr. Goh said. "We cannot grow by 8 to 10 percent each year without generating inflationary pressures."

He said the Monetary Au-

thority, which has most of the functions of a central bank, "must be prepared to act well in advance to moderate the periodic bouts of economic overheating that may be inevitable."

Mr. Goh did not provide a breakdown on the data for the first quarter. A formal announcement of the growth rate is expected Monday.

Singapore grew at a 9.1 percent rate in the fourth quarter of 1995 and 9.9 percent in the third quarter.

Separately, the opening of the telecommunications market in 2000 is designed to keep Singapore competitive amid global changes in the industry, the government said Saturday.

The speed-up follows difficulties with the original plan, the minister of communications, Mah Bow Tan, said. Under that plan, which Mr. Mah said had proved problematic and did not open the market

fast enough, competition in mobile phone services would have begun in 1997 and the first opening for basic services would have followed in 2002.

"Every year that we do nothing is a year lost as competition worldwide intensifies and technological change speeds up," Mr. Mah said.

The opening is expected to produce a slew of rivals to the monopoly Singapore Telecommunications Ltd. for such services as international calls, mobile phones and local telephone service.

The government will compensate the company with a lump sum payment of 1.50 billion Singapore dollars (\$1.07 billion) next year for the changes to its license. (Reuters, Bloomberg)

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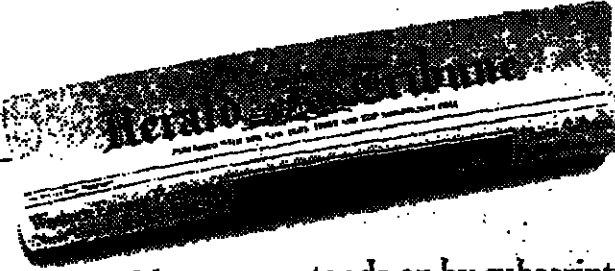
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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Honda Says Harsh Court Ruling in New Mexico Hits It Below the Belt

By Benjamin Weiser
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — For years, lawyers suing Honda Motor Corp. have complained that the Japanese automaker has used obstructionist tactics during pre-trial hearings, but in April, the company suffered a heavy blow: a New Mexico judge declared it the loser in a safety case before the trial was even held.

mobile safety suit. That means the central question of whether Honda was liable was decided without a trial. A trial will be held, but solely to determine how much the damages should be.

Honda struck back with an attack on the judge's ruling. In an urgent request to the Court of Appeals of New Mexico, Honda called the order "clear legal error" and asked that it be set aside to "prevent a miscarriage of justice."

Korzeniewicz's injuries were caused by a defectively designed seat belt, which failed to adequately protect him when the car, driven by a friend, went off the road and rolled over.

Legal specialists said default judgment was the most extreme measure a court could take to police the civil discovery process.

"Everyone now recognizes that if lawyers are going to behave properly, it's going to be because there's a price attached to misbehavior," said Stephen Gillers, professor of legal ethics at New York University School of Law. "It's the judges who can change the price, no one else."

Judge Thompson's five-page finding April 12 cited Honda's "pattern of misstatements" and "willful defiance" of court discovery orders.

Finding that Honda had "violated every Discovery Order entered by the Court," he said "a lesser sanction would not be appropriate or effective" and "would merely encourage Honda to further engage in more of the same."

"It appears that Honda does not want their design questioned," the judge wrote. He said Honda's conduct was "intentional and highly prejudicial to [the] Plaintiff, who was injured in their vehicle and now wants to investigate the alleged causes of his injuries."

Mr. Korzeniewicz alleged that Honda, in violation of the court's orders, was withholding internal documents and other materials relating to the Prelude, such as papers on alternative and potentially safer seat-belt designs, crash test results and engineering notes that could be important to the preparation of the case.

Honda said in court papers there was "no intent to wrongfully withhold documents," and that some documents had been lost or did not exist.

Honda acknowledged "some misunderstandings between the parties, that mistakes have been made."

"the harshest of sanctions where there is no intent to deceive, no bad faith, no willful and deliberate failure to obey court orders, would be completely unjust."

Honda, which denied liability in the lawsuit, said in a May 2 appeal that the allegations of defects were "trumped up and specious." Mr. Korzeniewicz's 1985 Prelude was from a generation manufactured in 1983-87 that passed government crash tests "with flying colors," Honda said. It contended that 297,000 have been sold without a "single verdict or judgment anywhere in the nation finding any defect of any kind in any of those vehicles."

EMPIRE: Wallenberg Firm Prepares to Raise Its Global Profile

Continued from Page 11

mission to market itself as an industrial holding company, not a financial holding company, which would have limited the number of investors.

The prospect of dealing with new, perhaps more meddlesome investors leaves Investor's top management unfazed, perhaps because under Peter Wallenberg's leadership the empire has thrived largely on consensus.

Of Investor's 16 companies, only two — Saab Group, the aerospace and defense technology company, and Electrolux AB, the maker of vacuum cleaners and other household appliances — are controlled by voting rights alone.

In another, Saab Automobile Group, Investor splits the voting power with General Motors Corp. All the rest are in the Wallenbergs' firm control, thanks to a dual-share system that concentrates voting rights in the hands of friendly investors and a tight-knit Swedish business climate that fosters behind-the-scenes decision-making.

"It isn't control so much as the aura of control," said Pehr Gyllenhammar, former head of Volvo AB and a long-time business friend of Peter Wallenberg.

At the telecommunications giant LM Ericsson AB, for instance, Investor actually shares control with Svenska Handelsbanken AB, Sweden's second-biggest bank. "But you'd never know it," Mr. Gyllenhammar said. "Every one regards Ericsson as a Wallenberg company, and in many ways it is — simply because of that perception."

It was Peter Wallenberg's father, Marcus Wallenberg Jr., who created that perception. Marcus Jr. ruled the family empire — and the Swedish business world — for three decades through the 1970s by sheer force of personality.

He brooked no dissent, not even from his brother, Jacob, who was chairman of the family bank, Stockholms Enskilda Bank, until he objected to Marcus Jr.'s plan to merge it with Skandinaviska Bank in the early 1970s.

Marcus Jr. engineered not only the merger, but also his brother's ouster from the bank's board and his own appointment as chairman. But Marcus Jr. paid a high price. Although the official version has it that his favorite son and chosen successor, Marc Wallenberg, then president of Stockholms Enskilda, was working with his father on the merger, many think he had sided with his uncle, Marc Wallenberg committed suicide on Nov. 16, 1971, just weeks before the merger was complete.

It was a rude awakening for Marcus Jr., who for years had said his youngest son, Peter, had neither the intelligence

nor the vision to head the family enterprise. Like so many of Marcus Jr.'s opinions, that one was regarded as gospel in Sweden for years.

"Nobody would have thought Peter would take on the role and be successful," said P.O. Edin, chief economist of the Swedish trade union group. "Although he isn't regarded as a strong industrial leader, he is the leader of the group without question."

'Nobody would have thought Peter Wallenberg would take on the role and be successful,' a Swedish union leader said. 'He is the leader of the group without question.'

Inheriting the mantle under such circumstances meant Peter Wallenberg, who had not been trained to take over the empire, had no choice but to seek outside advice and counsel. The Swedish press and his business rivals here like to portray him as a tyrant, and he does use an informal veto to shoot down plans not to his liking.

But in his 14 years at the helm, Peter Wallenberg has attracted some of the world's most admired business leaders to operate and guide the family companies. Among them is Percy Barnevik, the chairman of ABB Asea Brown Boveri Ltd., the electrical engineering giant that is 50 percent controlled by the Wallenbergs.

Bankers say Mr. Dahlback, 49, the president of Investor, has emerged as a strong leader, spearheading the family's global ambitions through an enviable collection of carefully cultivated contacts.

"The smartest thing Peter Wallenberg ever did was to understand that to preserve the family's power, he had to open it up," said Ken Costa, global head of mergers and acquisitions at SBC Warburg, which has a small stake in Investor.

The consensus he has achieved will no doubt come in handy as the family courts new allies outside the close-knit circle of banks, unions and businesses that run Sweden Inc. Investor has begun tapping Mr. Dahlback's contacts in search of global partners.

One of those is Peter D. Sutherland, chairman of Goldman Sachs International and an Investor director, who provides an entrée to the billions in dollars of private equity managed by Goldman, Sachs & Co. Investor has already joined forces with AEA Investors Inc., which manages money for the likes of Henry A. Kissinger and the Nordstrom family, to form a private equity fund dedicated to investing in Scandinavian companies.

All this would seem to collide with the Wallenberg family motto, "Esse non videre" — Latin for, "To be, not to be seen." The growth businesses the family will be pursuing are inherently high-profile.

"Sure, it's deeper water than we're used to, and uncharted," Mr. Dahlback said. "But we have to move into it because what is Sweden? In a few years, just another province of Europe."

The Week Ahead: World Economic Calendar, May 13-17

A schedule of this week's economic and financial events, compiled for the International Herald Tribune by Bloomberg Business News.

	Asia-Pacific	Europe	Americas
Expected This Week	Kathmandu, Nepal: Sixth international Himalayan Expo 96. Focus is on consumer goods from India and Nepal. Until May 15. Manila: Development Center for Finance holds Conference on capital structure and the cost of capital. May 17-May 18. New Delhi: Consumer 1996, consumer goods exhibit. May 19.	Dubai, United Arab Emirates: Independent Chemical Information Services hosts the World Olefins Conference. May 16 - May 17. Brussels: Fortis AG, a Belgian-Dutch financial services company, publishes 1995 annual report. The company said it will make an announcement about its activities.	Los Angeles: E3 Electronic Entertainment Expo. May 16-18. New York: Consumer Products and Business & Consumer Services Conference. May 13-May 15. New Orleans: Summit of the Americas, a meeting of finance ministers from 34 countries in the Western hemisphere. May 17-18.
Monday May 13	Sydney: March manufacturing price index. Tokyo: March current-account; March cross-border investments. Wellington: April food prices report; New Zealand Stock Exchange launches top 10 stocks fund.	Copenhagen: 1996 state budget deficit forecast; February housing starts. London: April producer prices. Madrid: March industrial prices. Paris: April consumer price index.	Ottawa: 1995 provincial gross domestic product report. San Jose, California: Apple Computer Inc. to address the recent problems with the company's computers and its future strategy.
Tuesday May 14	Sydney: May index of consumer sentiment. Tokyo: Economic Planning Agency releases machinery orders for March; Bank of Japan releases bank lending and deposits at major commercial banks in April.	Bern: Producer and import price index for April. London: Bank lending figures for the first quarter. Madrid: April inflation figures. Paris: Second-quarter industrial survey.	New York: Johnson Redbook research service releases weekly survey of total U.S. sales at more than 20 department, discount and chain stores. Washington: April consumer price index; retail sales for April.
Wednesday May 15	Manila: Aboltiz Equity Ventures Inc. holds briefing on 1995 performance. Sydney: Westpac Melbourne Institute scheduled to issue May index of consumer sentiment; March price indexes of materials used in manufacturing industries.	Copenhagen: Danish April car sales; February current account. London: April unemployment data. Paris: First-quarter job creation results. Stockholm: SCB releases April unemployment figures.	Dallas: AMR Corp., the parent company of American Airlines, holds its annual meeting. Washington: Federal Reserve Board releases industrial output and capacity use for April; March business inventories and sales.
Thursday May 16	Sydney: Housing finance figures. Tokyo: Tokyo Shoko Research and Teikoku Data Bank release April bankruptcies figures; April wholesale price index. Wellington: Employment figures for the January-March quarter.	London: April retail price index; March machine-tool orders. Madrid: First-quarter unemployment survey. Earnings expected: British Gas, British Telecom, Burton Group, Grand Metropolitan, Hanson PLC.	Ottawa: April consumer price index. Philadelphia: The Federal Reserve Bank releases its May Business Outlook Survey. Washington: Weekly state unemployment insurance claims; April housing starts.
Friday May 17	Bandung, Indonesia: PT Telkom holds annual meeting. Sydney: April merchandise imports; February average weekly earnings. Tokyo: Bank of Japan releases money supply for April. Wellington: Retail sales in March.	London: April public-sector borrowing requirement; May financial statistics. Rome: March industrial production. Expected earnings: General Cable; Osterreichische Brau-Beteiligungs AG.	Dallas: J.C. Penney Co. will hold annual meeting. Executives expect to discuss their recent \$6.82 billion bid for Dayton Hudson Corp. Washington: March trade deficit in goods and services.

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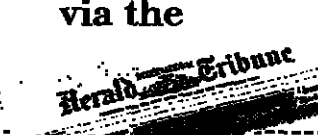
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CAREERS

Rent-a-Manager Industry Benefits From Short-Term Contract Zeitgeist

By Miranda Haines
Special to the Herald Tribune

LONDON — When Linda Whittington took off for India, walking out after 15 months as director of marketing for a technology company here, it was no case of wanderlust or burnout. The job was finished.

Ms. Whittington had been hired as an interim manager, a term increasingly used by executives all over Europe and the United States.

In interim management, or contingency work as it is known in the United States, a highly skilled executive is recruited urgently on a temporary basis and given full authority to complete a managerial task. In a job market where downsized companies are trying to adapt to the changed work and market forces, interim management has become a popular solution.

"I was hired to hit the ground running and had direct management status as opposed to a consultancy position," Ms. Whittington said. "We set up a

marketing department and strategy for a company that had let it slip through immense change, including three managing directors in the last three years."

Ms. Whittington was previously head of marketing for Coca-Cola Great Britain Ltd. before starting her own business in new-product development. She chose to become an interim manager because she wanted new challenges and the lifestyle suited her.

She is advancing her career portfolio-style, a common reaction to a short-term contract culture, said Cary Cooper, an educational psychologist at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

"We are entering new territory here," Mr. Cooper said.

Interim management is on its way to becoming one of the biggest growth industries in hiring, Mr. Cooper said. Because jobs are no longer for life and employees are disposable, managers will be able to market their skills to the highest bidder, he said.

Interim management integrates well

into the new job culture, said Martin Wood, head of the new interim-management department at Boyden's International in London.

"This is a bit like acting, and I'm not head-hunting, I'm 'head-renting,'" he said.

Although the market for interim managers is estimated at £200 million (\$304.4 million) a year, it has already doubled in size since 1991, said Charles Russam, vice chairman of the Association of Temporary and Interim Executive Services and the managing director of London-based GMS Interim Management Ltd. The real growth has come from independents who bypass agencies to farm out their services, he said.

The cost of an interim manager is negotiated for each job. Mr. Russam said. An agency charges 20 percent to 30 percent, and managers take home £200 to £600 a day.

While their pay, arranged on a daily basis, may seem high, Mr. Russam said that most interim managers do not work all year and do not receive such benefits

as vacation.

After five years in interim management, Martin Hill is an old hand. He works through agencies and Whitehead Management Ltd., a company he started with his wife, Julie. Both are qualified chartered accountants, and he said his wife was on contract as an interim manager at Aspinwall & Co., an environmental services company with operations in Britain and Asia.

"I have an employer now that won't ever fire me," Mr. Hill said. "Because whilst I have clients from time to time, I don't have a boss."

For the past three years, Mr. Hill has been commuting from Whitehead's base near Stafford, England, to Aberdeen, Scotland, to do various interim jobs for subsidiaries of BET PLC.

The downside of interim executive work is the uncertainty of the next assignment, Mr. Hill said.

"The possibility exists that I will never be employed again," he said.

Fifty percent of interim managers are between 45 and 55 years of age. Mr.

Russam said, having achieved a level of financial stability that can withstand the vagaries of temporary work.

But a significant benefit for interim managers, Mr. Russam said, is that they are not subject to ageism.

"This is an amazing phenomenon," he said. "In the permanent job market, people get turned down because they are too old. But with interim management, it is quite the opposite. Age is a plus. It equals experience and reliability."

As to why anyone would choose such a stressful career pattern, Mr. Russam suggested that there has been a mood swing among executives away from the work ethic and toward an emphasis to attain a more balanced life. Nowadays, people will commute significant distances to work, but they will not move, he said. Part of the reason is the rise in two-income families, in which one partner holds a steady, conventional job, he said.

Men dominate the interim management work force, Mr. Wood said. From 600 replies to a national advertisement

for such short-term managers he placed this year, only a dozen were from women.

"I think this is because the bracket of interim managers are earning £60,000 or more, and there simply are not that many women executives," he said. But he added that this would change as more women in the work force move to higher positions.

Mr. Cooper said the growing short-term employment culture may be benefiting women because the ratio of jobless men to women in Britain is already more than 2-to-1.

"We may see a real role reversal in society for the first time," he said. "This is it. Like all trends, it is happening fast. We will see the change five years from now."

But the growth of interim management illustrates how companies are failing to understand or value loyalty, he said. If they cannot commit to an individual, he asked, how can companies expect an individual to commit to them?

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- 3. Ecole Active Bilingue
- 4. Eurocole
- 5. Int'l School of Paris
- 6. Marymount School
- 7. Austria
- 8. American Int'l School Salzburg
- 9. Great Britain
- 10. Taxis
- 11. Switzerland
- 12. J.F. Kennedy

USA

- 1. Jackson School
- 2. Oxford Academy

Art & Design Schools

- 1. Italy
- 2. British Institute of Florence

Medical Schools

- 1. USA
- 2. Ross University

Educational Services

- 1. International
- 2. Howard Greene Group

Summer Studies

- 1. France
- 2. American University of Paris

North American Summer Camps

- 1. USA
- 2. Camp Watonska
- 3. National Camp Association
- 4. Pol-O-MacCreedy
- 5. Putney School Summer Programs

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NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Consolidated prices for all shares traded during week ended Friday, May 10

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3653	Div Yld	100-High	Low	Close	Open
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NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Consolidated prices for all shares traded during week ended Friday, May 10

(Continued)

Stocks	Div Yld	100% High	Low	Close	Change
Alcatel	2.8	44.0	43.0	43.5	0.5
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Newsweek

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THE INSIDE STORY.



John Barry
National Security Correspondent

Blue Jays Overcome Bosox, 8-7

The Associated Press
Robert Perez hit a bases-loaded single in the bottom of the 10th inning Sunday as the Toronto Blue Jays rallied for an 8-7 victory over the Boston Red Sox.

Perez's single helped Marty Janzen win his major league debut. Janzen, a rookie acquired by the Blue Jays in

AL Roundup

the trade that sent David Cone to the Yankees, gave up three hits in three innings of relief. Carlos Delgado singled, his fourth hit, to open the 10th and Joe Carter walked to chase Heathcliff Slocumb. Stan Belinda came on and hit Ed Sprague to load the bases. John Olerud, who tied a career-high with five runs batted in, popped out to shallow left, but Perez followed with a clean single to left to score Delgado with the winning run.

The Blue Jays rallied from a 7-3 deficit after seven innings, scoring three runs in the eighth and one in the ninth to win the final game in the three-game series.

Charlie O'Brien's pinch-hit homer leading off the ninth inning against Heathcliff Slocumb tied it 7-7. O'Brien hit a 2-2 pitch over the left-field fence for his fifth homer this season.

Mo Vaughn went 3-for-5 with a monstrous homer and John Valentin hit a two-run shot for the Red Sox. Roger Clemens held a 7-3 lead entering the eighth inning but gave up a three-run homer to John Olerud. Clemens went 7 2/3 innings, allowing six runs on eight hits. He struck out seven and walked four.

Brewers 6, Orioles 4 Dave Nilsson went 3-for-4 and drove in three runs as the Milwaukee Brewers overcame a pair of two-run homers by Rafael Palmeiro for a victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

Angel Miranda (2-2) gave up both of Palmeiro's homers but got the win. The left-hander gave up four runs and



Orioles' catcher Chris Hoiles waiting at the plate for the ball and Brewers' baserunner Dave Nilsson on Sunday.

seven hits in seven innings. Palmeiro's two-run shot in the first inning was the 200th of his career and gave Baltimore a 2-0 lead.

In games played Saturday: Mariners 11, Royals 1 Jay Buhner hit two home runs and tied his career best with six runs batted in, as the Mariners broke a six-game Royals' winning streak and ended their own three-game losing skid.

White Sox 7, Yankees 5 Harold Baines hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth to win an error-filled game for the White Sox. Dave Martinez opened the ninth with a single. Baines then hit John Wetteland's first pitch into the left-field seats.

Rangers 11, Tigers 7 In Arlington, Rusty Greer hit a grand slam in the first inning and had a career-best five RBIs for the Rangers.

Indians 6, Angels 5 Jack McDowell pitched a five-hitter over eight-plus innings and Jim Thome hit a three-run homer as Cleveland held on to

win in Anaheim.

Orioles 5, Brewers 3 Cal Ripken ended a three-for-31 slump with an RBI single in the 10th inning as Baltimore won in Milwaukee. After Roberto Alomar and Rafael

Palmeiro walked, Ripken

singled and B.J. Surhoff added a sacrifice fly.

Blue Jays 9, Red Sox 8, In Toronto, Sandy Martinez's two-out RBI single in the 11th inning gave Toronto the vic-

tory over Boston.

Athletics 12, Twins 5 In Oakland, Terry Steinbach hit a three-run homer and an RBI

double, and Phil Plantier hit three RBI singles for Oakland.

Heavy Hitters Let Rip at Brawl Park

By Jason Damos
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Fight nights are supposed to be reserved for Madison Square Garden. But the New York Mets and the Chicago Cubs put on a pretty good show at Shea Stadium on Saturday.

Rico Brogna was the day's hero, hitting his second home run of the game with one out in the ninth to win it, 7-6, for the Mets.

The fight started at home plate in the bottom of the fifth when Pete Harnisch, the Mets' pitcher who was batting, punched catcher Scott Servais after almost being hit by a pitch. The brawl continued, on and off, for the next 16 minutes, resulting in nine ejections.

In the bottom of the first, Kevin Foster, the

Cub's pitcher, had thrown a fastball straight at Todd Hundley's head. Hundley ducked. The Mets had two runners on, so it is unlikely that Foster was trying to hit Hundley.

In the second inning, when Foster batted, Harnisch drilled a fastball that hit Foster on the elbow. It was obvious that Harnisch had hit Foster in retaliation. Harnisch batted in the bottom of the second, but the Mets had two runners on so Foster could not retaliate. Harnisch and Servais exchanged words.

But when Harnisch batted with two out and none on in the fifth, reliever Terry Adams' first pitch sailed behind Harnisch, knee high. Then Harnisch punched Servais and things got nasty. Both benches and bullpens emptied and fists came flying up in pockets all over the field. Order was finally restored.

Grace's 4-Hitter Lifts Phillies Over Braves

The Associated Press

Mike Grace outduelled Greg Maddux, pitching a four-hitter as the Philadelphia Phillies snapped Atlanta's seven-game winning streak with a 6-0 victory Sunday over the Braves.

Grace (6-0) struck out five and walked only one while retiring the final 17 batters in his first career shutout. Four-time Cy Young Award winner Maddux (4-3) lost consecutively for the first time since June 1994.

The only threat against Grace came in the fourth inning. Mark Lemke led off with a single, but Chipper Jones' bid for a base hit

went 4-for-5 to raise his average to .350 during the Giants' 5-1 road trip. The Pirates have lost four straight, six of seven and are a league-worst 7-14 at home.

Cubs 3, Mets 0 Ryne Sandberg and Sammy Sosa had home runs as the Cubs broke a five-game losing streak. Jim Bullinger (2-3) struck out four and did not allow a walk in his first shutout and complete game since last July. Jeff Kent had both hits for the Mets.

Sandberg hit his eighth homer, in the first inning off Mark Clark (1-5), who lost his third straight decision. Sosa led off the fourth with his 11th home run — and fifth off the Mets — to make it 2-0.

Rico Brogna, whose two homers carried the Mets to a 7-6 victory Saturday, seemed surprised at Bullinger's pitching approach. "It seemed to me he knew when to take some speed off some of his pitches," Brogna said.

In games played Saturday: Marlins 11, Rockies 0 Al Leiter pitched the first no-hitter in Florida's brief history and baseball's first this season, shutting down the Colorado Rockies. "I'm numb," he said, after the game.

Leiter led the American League in walks and wild pitches last season while with Toronto. It was his eighth National League start. As Leiter took the mound for the ninth, the crowd of 31,549 at Joe Robbie Stadium stood to cheer their local hero. The 30-year-old Leiter had signed with the Marlins in order to be close to his home in Plantation.

Leiter, primarily a power pitcher, mixed his fastball with sliders and an occasional curve to keep the Rockies off balance. He struck out six, walked two and hit a batter. Leiter threw 103 pitches, 60 for strikes.

Expos 10, Astros 9 Moises Alou hit an RBI single in the 13th inning to give Montreal its 13th come-from-behind victory this season.

Braves 11, Phillies 3 Jeff Blauser drove in a career-high seven runs with a grand slam and a three-run homer, lifting Atlanta to its seventh straight victory.

Reds 6, Padres 6 Bret Boone's two-run single in the eighth inning rallied Cincinnati in the completion of a game suspended by rain.

Reds 1, Padres 0 An odd play — a wild pitch, stolen base and errant throw — let Hal Morris score the only run of the game and gave Cincinnati its seventh consecutive victory. Joey Hamilton held Cincinnati to three singles over eight innings, but took the loss because of the ragged first-inning run.

Giants 12, Pirates 7 In Pittsburgh, Barry Bonds hit his major-league leading 17th home run to lead the Giants to victory over his former team. Bonds has 11 homers in his last 14 games.

Dodgers 4, Cardinals 2 In St. Louis, Todd Hollandsworth hit his first two homers of the season and Ismael Valdes allowed four hits in 7 2/3 innings for the Dodgers.



Al Leiter, pitching his way to a no-hitter.

Pair of Hat Tricks Powers the Penguins

Jagr and Lemieux Tally 3 Goals Each as Rangers are Eliminated

By Joe Lapointe
New York Times Service

PITTSBURGH — Jaromir Jagr and Mario Lemieux each scored hat-tricks Saturday as the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the New York Rangers, 7-3, to win their Stanley Cup second-round series, 4-1.

Pittsburgh gave a display of "Showtime" hockey that resembled that of the basket-

NHL Playoffs

ball champion Los Angeles Lakers of the 1980s. In the roles of Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the Penguins offered Jagr and Lemieux.

Pittsburgh moves on to the third round of the four-round tournament to face either Philadelphia or Florida.

Over the series, Lemieux and Jagr outplayed the best two Rangers, Mark Messier and Brian Leetch. Jagr finished the series with seven goals and Lemieux had eight. Messier and Leetch combined for three goals during the series, all by Messier, including one Saturday night on the power play.

The Rangers' attempts at physical intimidation failed, as did their so-called dump-and-chase strategy. The Penguins, especially Saturday night, were able to counter-attack and lure the Rangers into the run-and-gun game that Pittsburgh prefers. The Rangers out-slashed and out-elbowed them for five games, but the Penguins landed just as many clean, hard, body checks.

During the first two periods, the Rangers twice trailed by two goals. But they kept coming back against a ragged Pittsburgh effort and eventually tied the score at 3-3 late in the second period.

But two quick goals by the Penguins in the final five minutes — Jagr's second and third of the night — provided Pittsburgh a 5-3 lead at the second intermission. He made it 4-3 at 13 minutes, 4 seconds, at even strength, by rebounding a Petr Nedved shot that had been stopped by Ranger goalie Mike Richter.

And Jagr made it 5-3 at 19:47 by taking a pass from Dmitri Mironov near the center red line, racing into the Ranger zone, using Jeff Beukeboom as a screen and



The Avalanche's Adam Deadmarsh checking James Black of the Blackhawks to the ice in the first period.

rocketing a wrist shot past Richter.

The goal brought a barrage of hats onto the ice to celebrate the hat trick, and officials decided to begin the intermission right then, and play the final 13 seconds of the period after the break.

On the scoreboard, the Penguins showed a videotape of the 1990 draft, when Jagr was selected by the team as an 18-year-old.

Lemieux had opened the scoring at 11:49 of the first period on a short-handed goal. He got behind the Rangers' defensemen, Leetch and Bruce Driver, who may have been crossed up in a line change. Lemieux beat Richter with a wrist shot to the glove side from the lower part of the right-wing circle.

Even though the Penguins' power play was disorganized through much of the first two

periods, they made it 2-0 with the man advantage at 2:35 of the second period. Jagr got this one on a backhander to Richter's glove side after a smooth right-to-left pass from Lemieux.

Messier got one back for the Rangers on a power play at 5:50 with a close-in deflection of Leetch's shot that went high past Pittsburgh goalie Ken Wregget. Lemieux made it 3-1 on a power play at 9:53 by beating Richter from a sharp angle, along the right wing, on the goal line.

Sergio Momesso of the Rangers cut the lead to 3-2 at 10:39 by shaking off Neil Wilkinson's stick check, walking out from behind the net and putting a backhander past Wregget. Niklas Sundstrom tied it on the power play at 13:26 with a deflection of Jari Kurri's shot.

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Roy became the NHL's career leader in playoff minutes for a goalie at 7,676, surpassing Billy Smith of the New York Islanders, who held the record of 7,645 minutes.

THIS WEEK ON

EUROSPORT



The Monaco Grand Prix is the most famous motor race in the world; can Jacques Villeneuve or Damon Hill follow in their fathers footsteps and win? The ATP Super 9 series reaches Italy and the noisiest venue of the year; will Pistol Pete be firing in Rome?

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Formula One | : 16 - 19 May, LIVE, The Monaco Grand Prix. The tight, twisting streets of Monaco are the legendary venue for the 6th round of the F1 World Championship. |
| Tennis | : 13 - 18 May, LIVE, The Italian Open, Rome. Pete Sampras and Boris Becker will be looking for their first clay court wins of the year as Thomas Muster sets out to continue his amazing run. |
| Football | : 15 May, The UEFA Cup Final, Second Leg. Bordeaux look to have a hard task on their hands as they take on Bayern Munich, who hold a two goal lead from the first leg. |
| Gymnastics | : 18 - 19 May, LIVE, The Women's European Championships, Birmingham. Two days of grace artistry and precision as the best gymnasts in Europe gather in England. |
| Athletics | : 18 May, LIVE, IAAF Grand Prix, Atlanta. With the Olympic Games getting closer, all eyes will be on Atlanta as the City plays host to some of the biggest names in athletics. |

Eurosport, the sports TV channel for Europe, covering the best action from Europe and around the world, is available throughout Europe, via cable and satellite.

Herald Tribune SPORTS

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WORLD ROUNDUP

World Cup Share?

SOCCER FIFA, international soccer's governing body, has asked Japan and South Korea if they are willing to co-host the 2002 World Cup. South Korean officials said they will respond by Wednesday, FIFA spokesman Andreas Herron said in Zurich. He said he did not know when Japan would answer. (Reuters)

Lewis Wins Narrowly

BOXING British heavyweight Lennox Lewis defeated Ray Mercer in a 10-round majority decision in New York, but did little to ensure a title bout with Mike Tyson. Lewis's victory over Mercer was unpopular with the crowd, who booed him throughout. In two other scheduled 10-rounders, Evander Holyfield stopped Bobby Czyz after five rounds and Tim Witherpoon stopped Jorge Luis Gonzalez in the fifth round. (WP)



Linford Christie racing to victory in the 100 meters Sunday.

Christie Coy on Olympics

ATHLETICS Olympic 100 meters champion Linford Christie opened his outdoor season with an impressive win Sunday in Arnsberg, Germany, but would not say whether he will defend his title in Atlanta. The 36-year-old Briton clocked 10.20 seconds for the 100 meters in cold, damp conditions. The mark compared favorably with the 10.3 seconds he clocked at the start of 1992 before he won the Olympic title. (Reuters)

Alou Barred on Birthday

BASEBALL Montreal Expos manager Felipe Alou, on his 61st birthday, was ejected Sunday from a game with Houston. The game was delayed after Henry Rodriguez hit a two-run double. Fans littered the outfield with "Oh Henry!" candy bars and the umpires sent the players to their dugouts while the ground crew cleared the field. Alou left the dugout to talk to umpires and was ejected following a brief conversation. (AP)

Harrington Wins

GOLF Padraig Harrington, who turned professional eight months ago, won the \$91,660 (\$140,000) first prize in the rain-affected Spanish Open Sunday. The 24-year-old Dubliner shot rounds of 67 and 71 Sunday to finish 16 under par, four shots ahead of Gordon Brand Jr. (Reuters)

Nervy Atletico Wins, Closing In on Title

Triumphs for Dortmund, Auxerre and, Doubly, Manchester United

Reuters
An 85th-minute goal by Kiko Narvaez kept Atletico Madrid on course for the Spanish league title Sunday after a nerve-racking 2-1 home victory over bottom club Salamanca.

Either Valencia or Barcelona must win all its games to deprive Atletico of what would be their first league and cup double.

Kiko put Atletico in the lead after 20 minutes when he headed home a Roberto Fresnedoso cross. But Salamanca struck back in a rare counter-attack midway through the second half when Romanian forward Ovidiu Stinga broke clear and lobbed a Atletico keeper Jose Molina.

Atletico had not won at home since February 25 but in the dying minutes Kiko picked up a seemingly harmless ball on the edge of the penalty area, turned and threaded a shot through the Salamanca defense.

Valencia won 2-1 at Sevilla despite having two players sent off, inspired by Pedrag Mijatovic who scored both goals. Valencia is four points back and has a vastly inferior goal difference, while Barcelona, whose game at Espanyol was suspended because of heavy rain on Saturday, is eight points back, having played one game less.

ITALY Lazio striker Giuseppe Signori closed the season as joint Serie A top scorer Sunday as his club beat relegated Torino 2-0 to secure a place in the UEFA Cup next season.

Milan, which was crowned Italian champions earlier in the month, treated its fans to a crushing 7-1 victory over Serie B bound Cremonese, its biggest victory of the season.

Signori's ninth minute goal was his

24th but he shared the honors with Igor Protti, of relegated Bari, an unknown at the start of the season, who scored twice in a 2-2 tie with Juventus.

With the league and relegation issues already settled, the only suspense in Sunday's final day of the league season was the hotly-contested battle for UEFA Cup places and the equally fierce fight to be crowned top goal scorer.

Lazio's victory, coupled with Parma's 2-0 defeat at Cagliari and Roma's 1-0 win over Inter, left Lazio sure of a UEFA Cup place as third-placed Fiorentina, which beat lowly Piacenza 1-0, finished level on points with Lazio and is also in Europe.

GERMANY Borussia Dortmund clinched the Bundesliga in the penultimate round of matches Saturday as Bayern Munich's challenge crumbled in a 2-1 defeat at Schalke. Dortmund tied 2-2 in Munich against 1860 to seal its fifth championship in 40 years. Dortmund has an unassailable four-point lead.

After Bayern fell to a last-minute winner at Schalke, Franz Beckenbauer, the club president and acting coach, said he had made a mistake sacking Otto Rehhagel as coach with four games to go.

"I knew I couldn't produce magic in three weeks," Beckenbauer said. "It was all too late. I should have either let things go on as they were or acted earlier."

ENGLAND Manchester United beat Liverpool 1-0 in the F.A. Cup final, Saturday, to become the first team to win the double of cup and league titles.

The only goal of a largely disappointing game was scored by Frenchman Eric Cantona with five minutes to play when the United skipper volleyed home from the edge of the penalty box.

United, which won the premier league last week, has won the F.A. Cup a record nine times after clinching the double for the second time in three years.



Kiko Narvaez, the Atletico Madrid striker, leaping a tackle by Josema Echeverria of Salamanca. Kiko scored both goals as Atletico won 2-1.

A Liverpool fan who spat at Eric Cantona as he climbed the steps to the Royal Box to collect the cup and another aimed a punch at Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson.

Martin Corrie, a Wembley Stadium spokesman, said: "We had cameras trained on that area and know who should have been in which seats. We are concerned at what was a distasteful incident and can use that visual reference to hopefully identify the people involved."

Cantona, who turned to stare at his assailant, said: "It was not a problem as far as I am concerned. I know there is

rivalry between Liverpool and Manchester United, that there can be trouble, but it didn't matter to me."

FRANCE Modest Auxerre secured its first league title Saturday by tying 1-1 at Guingamp. Auxerre scored after 11 minutes with a powerful shot from close range by Bernard Diomede and then controlled the match until the 80th minute, when George Mihali equalized for Guingamp.

Auxerre's closest challengers could not win. Metz lost 1-0 against Nantes, last year's champions while PSG tied 2-2 with Bordeaux.

As His Wife Recovers, So Does Vitaly Scherbo

By Christopher Clarey
Special to the Herald Tribune

PARIS — Vitaly Scherbo was embarrassed. When you win six gold medals in a single Olympics, you tend to feel a bit embarrassed when you botch landings, lose to lesser gymnasts and are carrying at least 11 pounds (five kilograms) too many on your compact frame.

"The worst part of my life," he said, when the invitational event in Paris concluded in March. "Even when I was a boy I was never that bad."

But Scherbo, the Soviet turned Belarussian who nearly matched Mark Spitz, had a good reason for not being himself. Of all the gymnasts competing that day, he was the only one who had spent last Christmas in an intensive-care hospital unit.

The patient at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania, was not him, it was his wife, Irina, who on December 13 for reasons that remain unclear lost control of her BMW sedan while driving to a hairdresser's appointment near the Scherbo's new home.

The vehicle skidded and crashed sideways into a telephone pole, ripping in half and leaving Irina with massive internal injuries. "She almost didn't make it," said Dr. Matthew Indeck, the surgeon who operated on Irina three times after she was airlifted to Geisinger. "Her injuries involved almost every part of her body, from her head to her legs."

For nearly a month, Irina, heavily sedated, remained unconscious and in critical condition. For nearly a month, Scherbo sat by her side, talking gently without hearing any response, learning the purpose of each tube and wire that was attached to his wife's terribly damaged body, and preparing for the worst.

"After the first surgery, the doctors

told me there is one-per cent chance she is going to live," Scherbo said. "I was in shock. But after that, I began to understand that I could be alone and the person to whom I want to talk and to whom I want say all my thoughts might be gone."

Scherbo was not completely alone. He had Ed Isabelle, the American gymnastics coach who had housed and helped the Scherbos when they first moved from the Belarussian capital of Minsk to the United States for their daughter Kristina's birth in March 1993. He also had his close friend and former Soviet teammate, Aleksandr Kolivanov, now an assistant gymnastics coach at the University of Iowa.

"Alex left his job and came as soon as he could," Scherbo said. "I was in a very bad condition. I began to drink. I began to go down, as we say in Russian."

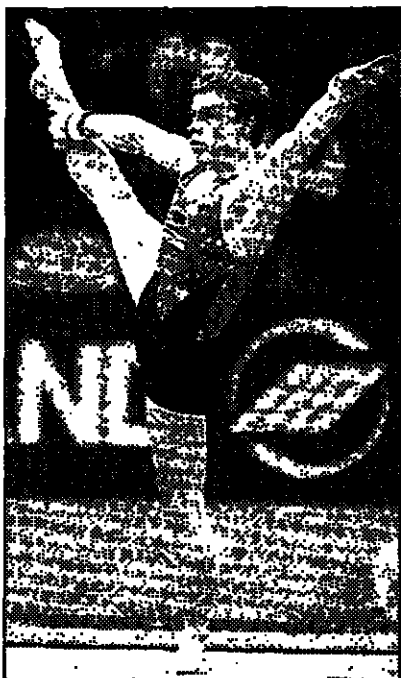
"When he came, he didn't let me go anywhere without him. He was driving the car all the time. He wouldn't let me drink. I can tell you that he put me back to life."

But Scherbo would need Irina to bring him back to gymnastics. After the accident, he stopped serious training, working out only occasionally.

After winning those six golds in Barcelona in a five-day burst of brilliance in 1992, a second Olympic appearance was suddenly no longer important.

"Why did I need gymnastics?" he said. "Without my wife, I can't even live."

Irina made what Indeck called "a remarkable recovery," and in February, when she was well enough to grasp all that had happened, she looked at her husband and, according to Scherbo, told him firmly: "Come on, Vitaly. You are maybe the strongest gymnast mentally in the world, and you just spent four years working for another Olympics. I want



Vitaly Scherbo, competing Sunday.

you to show everybody that nothing can stop you, nothing can disturb you."

More than two months have passed since Scherbo recommitted himself to the sport that has brought him notoriety and considerably less financial reward than he expected in the wake of his Barcelona success. Only Spitz, the American swimmer who won seven gold medals in 1972, has won more golds in a single Olympics.

Scherbo insists the Atlanta games will be his final major international competition. On Saturday, in the European championships in Copenha-

gen he finished second in the overall event, 24 thousandths of a point behind fellow Belarussian Ivan Ivanov. On Sunday he won the floor exercises, the vault and the parallel bars and finished third in the horizontal bars.

Scherbo has been training with his longtime coaches and teammates in Minsk. "Minsk is the only place I can focus and train like I need to for the Olympics," he said.

"My goal in Atlanta is to win at least one gold," he said. "Of course I would prefer the all-around gold. But I know that I am not quite as strong as I was in Barcelona in 1992."

Scherbo remains the most intense competitor in gymnastics. His focused and fiery approach to the sport, which many in the gymnastics world interpret as arrogance, has not always won him friends, but in recent years, it often has been his saving grace. Shoulder injuries have eroded his effectiveness on certain apparatuses, particularly the rings, and he has not won the all-around world title since 1993, finishing third in 1994 and second last year to China's Li Xiaoshuang.

"There is something in my mentality," he said. "I can be awful in warm-up, but once the competition begins, I am tough. I can block everything out."

Some might wonder why Scherbo, the son of Soviet acrobats, decided to keep competing at the highest level after Barcelona. Spitz certainly did not try for an Olympic encore. But it bears remembering that Scherbo was only 20 in 1992. It also bears remembering that six golds did not make him rich: "I don't care if I won six, eight or 10 golds," he said. "I do this again not for glory. I don't need this job. I do it because gymnastics is my joy, and I want a good future for my family."

Orlando Takes 3-0 Advantage

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

The Orlando Magic, a team looking for redemption after being swept in the NBA finals last year, is one game away from sweeping the Atlanta Hawks.

The Magic, led by 24 points from Shaquille O'Neal, took a 3-0 lead over Atlanta in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinals with a 103-96 victory on Sunday. It was the sixth straight victory of the playoffs for Orlando.

Foul trouble kept O'Neal on the bench for long stretches in the second half, but he came up with two big plays in the final minutes.

After Atlanta cut the Magic lead to 97-96 on two free throws by Christian Laettner with 2:47 remaining, O'Neal caught a pass in the lane with Laettner on his back. Instead of trying to force a shot and risk his sixth foul, O'Neal dished the ball outside to Dennis Scott, who hit a three-pointer with 2:28 left.

Anfernee Hardaway tipped in his own miss with 1:46 remaining to give the Magic a 102-96 lead, then O'Neal sealed the victory at the defensive end. Steve Smith drove through the lane but was snuffed by O'Neal.

In games played Saturday:

Knicks 102, Bulls 99 Just when it seemed the New York Knicks would fall three games behind and suffer the embarrassment of being torched by Michael Jordan, the two men who were often missing in action during the first two games of this Eastern Conference semifinal series produced clutch performances: Patrick Ewing and John Starks.

Ewing and Starks scored 12 of the Knicks' 14 points in overtime Saturday night to lead New York to a 102-99, Game 3 victory over the Chicago Bulls, reducing their deficit to 2-1. It was the first loss in the playoffs for the Bulls, who got a game-high 46 points from Michael Jordan and 16 rebounds from Dennis Rodman. The Bulls trailed by eight points with 90 seconds left, but Jordan tied the game and nearly won it.

The Bulls' coach, Phil Jackson, who has been involved in verbal sparring with Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy, refused to take questions afterward. "I don't want to fuel any fires that might be created by some of the reporting that's going on here in this series," he said in a 62-second postgame speech.

While complimenting the Knicks, Jackson left no doubt he thought the Bulls would regain control of the series in Sunday's Game 4. "They played as well as they can," he said of the Knicks, "and we floundered around, it seemed like, for three quarters before we got ourselves together."

Indeed, the Bulls played miserably at the outset, falling behind 19-6. There was one stretch where guard Steve Kerr stole the ball from the Knicks in consecutive possessions, but missed one layup and fumbled away the second. Jordan called it "typical of today."

But Jordan brought the Bulls back with occasional help from Scottie Pippen, who shot 10 for 29 and has struggled since the All-Star Game with his shooting.

The Bulls actually had a chance to win the game in regulation, but couldn't successfully work a bizarre-looking play that had Pippen throwing the ball about 20 feet (6 meters) or more in-bounds to Jordan, who never got the ball cleanly before missing a shot in desperation.

Jazz 105, Spurs 75 Both victories by the Utah Jazz in their Western Conference semifinal with the favored San Antonio Spurs have been blowouts.

No secret to it, Karl Malone insisted Saturday, after he scored 32 points in Utah's Game 3 rout in Salt Lake City. That and a 95-75 victory in Game 1 gave the Jazz a 2-1 lead in the best-of-7 series. "Going to the baskets strong sets the tone for us," Malone said. "I see what the defense gives me and play off that." Malone won 14-of-24 from the field, mixing inside power moves with perimeter jumpers. The Jazz defense held David Robinson to just 11 points, after he had averaged 26.5 points in the first two games. (AP, NYT)

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